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Cherries crash out of FA Cup
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Defeat for Spitfires



Rovers strike late to beat Eastleigh - page 4

SAINTS GO HEAD FIRST!

Club hit league best for headers

SAINTS have used their heads to devastating effect this term - hitting a Premier League best of 11 goals this season.

In Saints' last two victories away from home, they have triumphed 1-0 through headed goals.

First, Charlie Austin's debut late winner at Manchester United and then Shane Long's effort at Swansea last Saturday.

It comes as little surprise, therefore, that Saints are also among the most prolific crossers in the top-flight too.

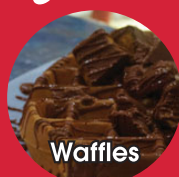
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Shane Long's headed winning goal against Swansea last weekend. Photo: Stuart Martin



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FA Cup: Bournemouth 0 Everton 2

Cherries pay the penalty as cup run comes to a finish

CHERRIES were sent spinning out of the FA Cup after second-half goals from Ross Barkley and Romelu Lukaku saw Everton book a place in the quarter-finals.

It could have been a different story for Eddie Howe's team with Charlie Daniels seeing his first-half penalty saved by Everton goalkeeper Joel Robles.

Barkley's deflected shot gave the visitors the lead after 55 minutes before Lukaku pounced from close range to double their advantage 14 minutes from time.

Robles, an FA Cup winner while on loan with Wigan in 2013, kept out Daniels's 38th-minute spot-kick after James McCarthy had handled the defender's corner.

Everton preserved their record of having not conceded in this season's competition as they booked their fourth quarter-final appearance in the past five years.

England manager Roy Hodgson was among the crowd at Vitality Stadium to run the rule over several contenders for his Euro 2016 squad.

Cherries boss Eddie Howe made no fewer than seven changes, while opposite number Roberto Martinez kept faith with the team which had lost 1-0 to West Brom in the Premier League seven days previously.

Howe drafted in Adam Federici, Tommy Elphick, Juan Iturbe, Shaun MacDonald, Josh King, Sylvain Distin and Eunan O'Kane, with January signing Rhys Wiggins named among the Cherries substitutes.

Following a cagey opening, Iturbe fashioned the first shooting chance in the 13th minute after embarking on an electrifying run from deep inside his own half.

But having made his way to the edge of the Everton 18-yard box, the Argentinian saw his left-foot strike fly well wide of the target.

James McCarthy was booked for hauling back Iturbe as he again looked to stretch the visitors' defence before Federici gathered comfortably after Ross Barkley had tried his luck from distance.

A piledriver from Junior Stanislas failed to trouble Everton goalkeeper Robles, while Federici stood tall to keep out Romelu Lukaku's effort after the striker had raced into the six-yard box.

Cherries' flimsy appeal for a penal-



Everton's Romelu Lukaku (centre) scores his side's second goal of the game during the Emirates FA Cup, fifth round match at Vitality Stadium, Bournemouth

ty fell on deaf ears after Dan Gosling had gone to ground under a Phil Jagielka challenge, with replays suggesting the England defender had made a clean tackle.

Referee Martin Atkinson had no hesitation in pointing to the spot after McCarthy had handled Daniels' 37th-minute corner.

But with Robles guessing correctly and diving to his left, the Spaniard pulled off a top-drawer save to keep out Daniels' firmly-struck penalty with Simon Francis blazing wide from the follow up.

Everton created the first chance of the second half when Seamus Coleman's near-post header from a Tom Cleverley corner flashed past the upright.

MacDonald fired narrowly over the crossbar after a free-kick from

Francis had been half-cleared to the Welshman on the edge of the box.

McCarthy's thunderous strike flew past the post before the visitors opened the scoring through Barkley after 55 minutes.

There was an element of good fortune about the goal with the midfielder's shot deflecting off Gosling and looping over Federici.

Everton thought they had doubled their lead through Lukaku just minutes later but his effort was ruled out for offside.

Stanislas's 20-yard free-kick struck Lukaku, who was perched on the end of the Everton wall, and bounced the wrong side of the post before Gosling drilled a shot into the side netting.

Substitute Glenn Murray saw his shot cannon off a defender and out for a corner before Gosling headed a

cross from Stanislas straight down the throat of Robles.

As Cherries continued to probe, Matt Ritchie side-footed a King centre past the post before Barkley's effort flicked off Eunan O'Kane and went out for a corner.

And from the resultant flag-kick taken by Bryan Oviedo, Gareth Barry's clever back-heel allowed Lukaku to tap home Everton's second from close range.

Cherries: Federici, Francis, Elphick, Distin, Daniels, Stanislas, Gosling (Smith, 77), MacDonald (Ritchie, 63), O'Kane, Iturbe (Murray, 71), King.

Everton: Robles, Coleman, Jagielka, Funes Mori, Oviedo, Lennon, McCarthy, Barkley (Mirallas, 80), Barry, Cleverley, Lukaku (Niasse, 80).

Ladies on fine form

Southampton Saints LFC (Reserves) 2 - 1 West Ham United LFC (Reserves)

Two months and one day since Saints last played in the league, and three weeks since their SDF Cup QF win to BTC, one could be forgiven for assuming that the Saints ladies had forgotten what good football was all about.

Saints confidently took to the field, and showed that nothing had been forgotten, except on occasions how to tackle!

Southampton were well on top for most of the first half. The high pressure created plenty of chances, and it wasn't long before one finally worked, as Tiff Eley sprayed the ball wide to Kelly Holmes.

Holmes looked up and launched a cross to the back post, where leading scorer Elle Pearce arrived to finish for her eighth goal of the season.

Three minutes later the ball went wide right, then was crossed high to the back post, but this time the defender was able to prevent the shot.

Bombing forward from left back was Nicola Curtis who received the lay off from Elle Pearce, who struck across goal, finishing in the far corner of the net.

Sensing that the West Ham players would come out fired up in the second half, Southampton sought to adapt their game plan slightly, playing tighter and narrower. Perhaps a bit of a gamble, as Saints were never allowed out of their own half.

West Ham did manage to get a goal around twenty minutes from time, which came after a large scramble in the penalty area as players dived in the way to prevent the ball crossing the line. Isabel Glover pulled up with a hamstring injury late on to leave Southampton down to ten.

It seemed like an eternity, but the referee finally blew the whistle. Saints rejoiced and celebrated a good home win.

Brian Eley



Elle Pearce

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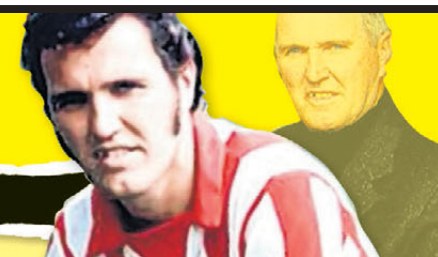
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Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



Goalkeepers deserve national recognition

WE'RE ALL saying it — what a season this is.

Last year's miraculous relegation survivors seem to have swapped form, ability and class with last season's champions.

Apparently, no, this is not a gritty British footballing take on Hollywood's *Freaky Friday* comedy sensation.

Which leaves us wondering, just how did we reach the end of February with Leicester topping the table and Chelsea sitting in 12th place?

Anyone who knows anything about football, it is safe to say, has been scratching their heads for an explanation behind this season's apparent blatant defiance of the norm.

We've officially seen it all since August.

Pardew has been tipped for England, The Tinker Man tops the table with the same team each week, United look more like a recent Liverpool then Liverpool do, Villa have forgotten what three points feels like and Chelsea were actually considered relegation candidates for months.

Could we, though, still be in for the greatest surprise yet?

Player of the year. The coveted personal accolade, accompanied by the mandatory glitz, glam, gold and grandeur. The highest individual award the league can offer. A title, traditionally reserved for those who do their best work in the opposition's half.

Blessed with talent, tricks, flair and normally far to much gel in their hair, Premier league strikers, wingers and the odd defender have hogged the crown for some time now.

But could that be about to change?

Could this be the season we see a goalkeeper win the best player the league has to offer for 2015-2016?

Not since Pat Jennings in 1976, has a man between the sticks been voted the PFA player of the year.

This year, though, the argument for a team's number one to become the league's number one is probably greater than ever. All of the current top six clubs are fortunate to be in very safe hands at the back.

Without David De Gea, United could very possibly be going neck and neck with Chelsea for 12th place.

Not for the first time it must be said, De Gea has single handedly rescued a number of points for the Red Devils.

He is capable of some truly sublime saves. With the early fears of strength and his ability to cope under the high ball all but eroded, it is fair to say that De Gea has been outstanding for some time now.

Winning United's player of the year for the past two seasons, a statement of United's poor form in itself, would show that a PFA Player of the Year nomination is merited. If a keeper were to win this year's award, few would argue against the Spaniard.



Petr Cech beats Virgil Van Dijk to the ball as Saints take on Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium

It's safe to say that Saints' fans breathed a sigh of relief when Forster returned from injury. It's no coincidence that the club's recent charge into the top six has been down to the stability and defiance that Forster brings.

Ronald Koeman must be wondering where the Saints would be on the table if Forster had been around in the early parts of this campaign.

Regrettably, though, the absence that has re-enforced his brilliance will more than likely prevent him from being a front runner should a GK actually win this year's award.

Forster, many would argue, should challenge Joe Hart more in the England set up than what Roy Hodgson currently allows.

But Hart himself has been hard to beat at the Etihad this season. Possibly the only consistent thing about City this season is their reliance on Hart in sticky situations.

A mainstay amongst Europe's best keep-

ers for a few years now, Hart wouldn't be unwarranted with at least a nomination for the award.

Nor would Hugo Lloris.

The Frenchman looks to be enjoying the Pochettino revolution underway at White Hart Lane. Agile and good with his feet, Lloris has been one of the many positives for Spurs this season. In truth, it's hard to see many better than the French captain anywhere in Europe. Unless you take a peek across London.

The best piece of business conducted last summer could very well be Petr Cech.

On his way to consecutive titles with different London teams? Well, it looks like it!

The helmet clad senior of the goalkeeping elite group has given Arsenal's back four something they've lacked for nearly a decade — confidence.

A 'keeper of true calibre leaves no doubt about who is in charge in their box. Cech does exactly that. Trusted with leading from

the back, Cech has kept the Gunners from their annual mid-season wobble and looks set to steer them as close as they've been to the title in years.

If anyone deserved the award of player of the year, Cech would be up there.

Of course, we can't discount Schmeichel now can we?

Leicester are written off each week, yet defy all odds to maintain their lead at the top. The pacy boys up front may be collecting the plaudits, but Schmeichel has had just as much part to play in the Foxes' unbelievable rise.

If a GK get's the nod for player of the year, we can't ignore that the Dane has been simply superb so far this season.

We're kidding ourselves, though, aren't we? Those who get the ball into the back of the net will get the nod, surely not those who keep the ball out?

Probably. But if ever there was a year a keeper should win it, this would be it.

Forest Green Rovers 2 Eastleigh 1

Spitfires' miserable year goes on with late defeat

EASTLEIGH'S miserable 2016 continued as Chris Todd's side surrendered a one-goal advantage to lose at high-flying Forest Green.

James Constable fired the Spitfires into a second-half lead, only for Jon Parkin to hit-back with a double for the hosts, *writes Paul McNamara*

Parkin's winner, with just two minutes remaining, condemned Todd's men to a fourth straight league defeat. The Spitfires' misery was compounded when Ben Strevens saw red deep into stoppage time.

Constable had stung Steve Arnold's palms with an early effort after cutting in from the left to fire a shot that the 'keeper pushed away to his left.

Keanu Marsh-Brown then shot wildly over from 25-yards, but the ex-Barnet man was on the money when he sent in a dangerous, dipping deep free-kick that recalled Spitfires' stopper Ross Flitney punched clear, with James Jennings waiting to pounce.

Matt Tubbs was soon presented with an unlikely sight of goal, when Charlie Clough's clearance cannoned back off Darren Carter and into the Spitfires' attacker's path. Tubbs strode forward to shoot from an angle, but Arnold was able to save comfortably down to his right.

Flitney was quickly back in action after the break, when Carter's crunching tackle on Jamie Turley broke for Dale Bennett to collect and race clear into the box. Eastleigh's number one flew from his line to make a crucial block on the raiding right-back, the ball spinning behind.

Frear was soon curling a shot over the top of goal, before the winger turned provider, pulling a ball back for Rob Sinclair to thrash wastefully high.

A jinking Jai Reason then made his way to the edge of the box, only to shoot straight into Arnold's gloves – but the Eastleigh man's next contribution was altogether more satisfactory.

Josh Payne located Reason, whose delightful first-time flick found Constable. The striker shifted the ball onto his right foot and unleashed a strike that beat Arnold low inside his left post.

Rovers wasted no time in their pursuit of a leveller.

Flitney hared from his goal to produce a point blank stop on Parkin's close range effort, after David Pipe's flick had found the veteran striker.

There was nothing Flitney could do, however, when, Marcus Kelly, on for Jennings, floated a ball into the box that found Parkin totally unattended and chesting down to swivel and drill into the roof of the net.

Frear was prominent as the hosts built up a head of steam – although Eastleigh remained a threat on the counter. Tubbs shot weakly at Ar-



Jai Reason and Matt Tubbs between them rob David Pipe of Forest Green Rovers of the ball



Ben Strevens gets his marching orders from referee Robert James. Pictures: Bruce Fenn

nold following Joe Partington's run and cross, while Michael Green struck over from 10-yards.

The home team's pressure eventually told, however. Frear delivered the latest in his personal collection

of wicked right-wing corners, this one sent into a clutch of bodies stationed around Flitney.

As the ball broke loose it was forced a yard over the line, with Parkin – lucky to still be on the pitch af-

ter the officials missed the ex-President man's earlier blatant elbow on Strevens – claiming the final touch.

When Strevens then saw red in stoppage time, Eastleigh's miserable day was complete.

Saturday results

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Basingstoke 2 Maidenhead 1
Bath City 1 St Albans 0
Bishops Cleeve 0 Maidstone 1
Chelmsford 2 Margate 3
Concord Rangers 0 Gosport Borough 0
Eastbourne Borough 1 Dartford 1
Hayes & Yeading 2 Oxford City 1
Hemel Hempstead 2 Sutton 2
Truro 1 Ebbsfleet 1
Weston-super-Mare 1 Wealdstone 2

Whitehawk 1 Havant & Waterlooville 1
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division
Cambridge City 2 Biggleswade 2
Chesham pp Histon
Frome 1 Chippenham 0
Hitchin 2 Hungerford 1
Kettering pp Dunstable
Kings Lynn 3 Bedworth 0
Merthyr Town 2 Dorchester 4
Paulton Rovers 2 Stratford 1
Poole Town pp Bideford
Slough 1 Leamington 3
St Neots 1 Redditch 3
Weymouth pp Cirencester
Division One South & West
Bashley 0 AFC Totton 4
Bishops Cleeve 0 Banbury 2
Bridgwater 1 Wimborne 0
Cinderford pp Taunton
Evesham 0 Shortwood 0
Mangotsfield 1 Larkhall 2
Marlow 0 Didcot 5
North Leigh 1 Wantage 0
Slimbridge 0 Swindon Supermarine 1

Tiverton 4 Yate 0
Winchester City 6 Burnham 1
FA VASE, quarter-final
Salisbury 3 Ashford United 0
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP, sixth round:
Liphook United 0 Hedge End
Rangers 0 (HE won 4-3 pens).
Premier Division
Baffins Milton Rovers 4 Overton United 0
Bush Hill 2 Paulsgrove 0
Colden Common 2 Clanfield 2
Fleetlands pp QK Southampton
Headley United 0 Winchester Castle 4

Infinity 1 Hamble Club 10
Otterbourne 2 Locks Heath 0
Stockbridge 0 Liss Athletic 10
Division One
AFC Petersfield pp Sway
Broughton 4 Upham 2
Lyndhurst pp Andover Lions
Michelmersham & T pp Hayling United
Netley Central 4 Four Marks 0
Combination East
Haying United pp AFC Petersfield
Liss 5 Headley 2
Combination West
Overton 2 Hedge End 5
QK Southampton 2 Bush Hill 2
Winchester Castle 3 Otterbourne 1
ALDERSHOT JUNIOR CUP, quarter-final:
Liphook United Res 1 Fleet Spurs A 0

DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE
League Supplementary Trophy
Athletic Ramsey 3 Braishfield 3 (Braish won 2-4 pens)
Athletic Ramsey Res 4 Michelmersham & T 1
Capital 6 AFC Testwood 1
Hedge End Tn 4 Compton 0
Durley Res 1 BTC Soton A 5
Sporting Wessex 8 Humble Plumb 0

Junior League Cup, quarter-finals
AFC Station 1 Sharnbrook 2
Nursling Res 2 Park Phoenix 0
Premier:
BTC Soton 2 AFC Gulf Western 3
Senior 1
Comrades Res 3 Chamberlayne Ath 4
Warsash Wasps 0 Park Sports 2

Salisbury close to fulfilling Wembley dream after confident victory

FA Vase : Salisbury 3 Ashford United 0



Taurean Roberts

SALISBURY are within two matches of an FA Vase final appearance at Wembley after confidently brushing aside Ashford United 3-0 in the sixth round in the Raymond McEnhill Stadium mud.

Two goals either side of half-time by the inspirational Taurean Roberts and skipper Kane O'Keefe effectively decided a tie which Salisbury bossed from the outset.

They originally led through O'Keefe, whose 26th minute opener fuelled the Wembley dreams of the Whites' fans in the bumper 1,791 crowd.

Salisbury will be joined in Monday's two-legged semi-final draw by Hereford United, who beat Camberley Town 3-2 at Edgar Street.

Bowers & Pitsea were held 3-3 by Kidlington, while Morpeth Town's tie with Bristol Manor Farm in the north-east was postponed.

Salisbury made the running from the off

in the drizzly conditions and twice went close through influential wide-men Roberts and Dan Demkv before taking the lead.

They deservedly went in front midway through the first half after the hard working Tom Whelan unleashed a 25-yarder at the Ashford goal.

His sizzler was blocked – but the ball fell conveniently to O'KEEFE who, back to goal, hooked the ball into the visitors net from inside the six-yard box.

Salisbury almost doubled their lead when, in a manic scramble in the Ashford goalmouth, Roberts and Sam Wilson saw efforts blocked and defender Josh Woolley panic to hack the ball clear.

Out gunned in midfield, Ashford seldom threatened – but twice before half-time they squandered gift wrapped chances.

Top scorer Paul Booth headed wide of an empty net and then Jon Pilbeam rolled

a low shot across Charlie Searle's goalmouth and wide of the far upright. Both should have scored.

It cost the high flying South East Counties League side dear as just before half-time Wilson laid a short pass into the path of ROBERTS, who drilled a low 20-yarder into the bottom right-hand corner to give Salisbury a 2-0 interval lead.

Barely a minute into the second half Salisbury's place in the semi-finals was clinched.

Roberts, who had led the Ashford defence a merry dance with his pace, beat two Ashford defenders on the left and poked a short pass to O'KEEFE to bury Salisbury's third.

Well beaten, Ashford mustered a brief threat when Callum Hart cleared off the line from the tricky Ryan Palmer.

MIKE VIMPANY



Kane O'Keefe

Winchester City 6 Burnham 1

City at the summit as goal spree hits visitors for six of the best

WINCHESTER CITY are flying high at the top of the Southern One South & West after a first-half goal spree at the Denplan City Ground.

With Cinderford's game rained-off, the Citizens move into pole position with a 6-1 demolition of second-to-bottom Burnham.

Star striker Warren Bentley was presented with a Golden Boot Award for reaching a century of club goals at Marlow in midweek.

But it was his frontline partner ZACH GLASSPOOL who gave City the lead with just three minutes gone

Taz Roberts was caught by defender Dominic Rhone as he raced onto to Jamie Barron's short free-kick and Glasspool beat the keeper with curling delivery that went in just ahead of Bentley's arrival at the far post, *writes Wendy Gee*

Zach Glasspool delivered a goal-bound effort to the far post where BENTLEY has the easy job of knocking it over the line.

Seven minutes later it was 2-0 and this time it came from a striker just beginning his career with the club.

Craig FEENEY recently signed from AFC Totton, did well to stay on his feet as he chased a through ball on the slippery surface and, with keeper David Lyons unable to gather, calmly stroked the ball into the unguarded net.

In between times City keeper Brendan Norris got down sharply on the muddy surface to take the



Team-mates congratulate Warren Bentley after his second goal of the game

string out Burnham skipper Abdul Ally's long-range blast.

Winchester then had a blatant penalty turned down when Barron was caught by Hayden Clack inside the box.

But the home side needn't have worried as BENTLEY struck again on 19 minutes after Burnham's porous defence had been undone by

Roberts' ball over the bop.

It was all too easy for Winchester as their fourth goal arrived on 26 minutes courtesy of a delicious right-foot volley by BARRON from the edge of the box after the struggling visitors had failed to clear a set-piece.

GLASSPOOL slid a possible fifth past the upright with 36 minutes

gone but, seconds later, he was played in by Bentley and this time made no mistake with a deadly finish past Lyons.

A sixth goal looked a certainty with 41 minutes gone when Bentley latched onto a loose defensive pass but, having pulled away to the right as he skipped past the keeper, he somehow screwed his shot over.

But he too made instant amends as City stepped up their first-half scoring spree.

As a one-sided game ticked into its 43rd minute, Roberts curled the ball in from the right and BENTLEY netted his second of the game from close range.

With victory seemingly in the bag Winchester manager Paul Masters took the opportunity to rest some players for bigger battles ahead.

Don Cote replaced Danny King at the start of the second-half and a double substitution quickly followed with Adam Tomasso and Charlie Smeeton going on for Barron and Roberts.

The second-half was a scrappy affair with City finding it harder against a gusty wind and constant drizzle.

And there were signs of the home side falling to sleep on 65 minutes when they switched-off from a deep free-kick and Michael Gorniak sent a free header straight at Norris.

Burnham bookings were the main feature as their yellow card count increased to six in rapidly deteriorating conditions.

Winchester's first yellow card was shown to goalkeeper Norris who raced outside his area and flattened Ally with six minutes remaining.

With 89 minutes gone Burnham were rewarded for a hard-working second-half display when ALLY headed home Dominic Rhone's delivery.

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Adam Rant

The week's big talking points
with ADAM LEITCH

'Irritant' replays part of the magic

Premier League
need to leave FA
Cup well alone

SCRAPPING FA Cup replays is one of those ludicrous type of ideas that gets floated out there every so often to test the water before an inevitable public backlash sees the concept binned.

At that stage those that came up with it tend to claim it was never a serious suggestion but just something they talked about along with a myriad of other options.

Presumably these were all equally as unlikely to happen, which of course begs the question of why so much time and energy was wasted on it in the first place.

In this instance, the discussion is not an unfair one to have, and Adam Rant actually thinks it can be positive for the FA Cup.

It's not until you are faced with the prospect of the competition being pared down as has been mooted — no replays and more midweek fixtures — that you begin to get people thinking about what it actually means.

The outrage caused by even the suggestion this should happen perhaps is a strong indication that actually the FA Cup is more important, dearer to us as an English footballing public, than we had imagined.

Maybe, just maybe, the cash of the Premier League and the Champions League isn't the only thing that matters.

In terms of easing the top flight fixture schedule, there is no easy answer.

An obvious measure is to make the League Cup semi-final one leg — that has never made much sense given the whole of the rest of the competition is decided in such a manner, including the final.

Otherwise, if you want the cash then you have to play the games.

To think that, especially with the new TV deal set to earn every Premier League club a minimum of £100m from next season onwards that you cannot assemble a squad capable of giving it a crack is madness.

This is one instance where you have to protect the integrity of football, and of lower league teams.

Of course Premier League clubs don't want replays. They are an irritant and get in the way of the more lucrative business they have to take care of.



Non-league Eastleigh managed to secure an FA Cup replay against Championship side Bolton

However, it is exactly the fact they are an irritant that makes them so magical.

It's because the lower league team can get a draw and a replay that makes it such an incredible compe-

tion.

To cede any of that away is to do those clubs a disservice.

The Premier League should consider other alternatives.

If we are set on protecting the FA

Cup then why not allow optional entry for Premier League sides in the League Cup?

Or perhaps an extra round or two of midweek matches in the early season?

No Ronnie no party

TRYING to get inside Ronnie O'Sullivan's mind is pretty much impossible, but it's that touch of genius and unpredictability that make him so compelling.

Therefore we shouldn't be vexed about his decision not to attempt a 147 when down to the final couple of reds and instead settle for a 146 having apparently deemed the prize money insufficient.

There were inevitable outcries about short changing the public, and O'Sullivan being a pampered sports star if he doesn't realise of the £10,000 he would have won for the maximum break.

But for snooker his antics are worth a fortune.

He is just box office. You never know what he's going to do next. It's that incredibly unpredictable edge that gives us our greatest and best loved sports people.

It's because Ronnie is not a robot, because he can actually make a decision on whether he can be bothered with a 147, that make him so brilliant.

And as for the poor crowd — will anybody who saw that amazing break ever forget that in a hurry. They have the ultimate I was there moment. Good value all round.



Ronnie O'Sullivan

Poor from Pacquiao

MANNY Pacquiao's comments about homosexuality have led some to say that sports stars should just keep their mouths shut and concentrate on what they're good at.

To the contrary, they should be allowed the same freedom of speech as everyone else.

At least then we know who we are supporting and cheering on.

Many boxing fans who have supported Pacquiao down the years will be appalled to hear what he's had to say and will now regret having invested so much in him.

The more we know, the better informed decisions we can make over who we choose to support.

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Why I'd love to see Rickie's return



FEBRUARY 16 saw Rickie Lambert's 34th birthday.

For me, at least, it was rather sad to be wishing the former Saints man a happy birthday when he no longer plays for the club.

It's hard to imagine the club ever having a player like Sir Rickie Lambert again.

Players like him are few and far between and as money increases its grasp on the game, it's hard to imagine a player having that sort on impact on the club ever again.

Rickie Lambert was a legend, no other word for it.

He arrived at the club with a huge amount of expectation weighing heavily on him... and he absolutely exceeded all expectations.

From being a record League One signing he went on to become the highest goalscorer in League One, The Championship and the Premier League and was sold at four times what we paid for him and over the age of 30.

No player can surely have that sort of impact on this club again?

If they did, they'd follow the likes of Lallana and co out of the door the moment they show any kind of ability.

To see the great man now plying his trade for West Brom is really rather upsetting, especially as he's not even first choice there.

If there was one player who I would welcome back with open arms, if only in a coaching or ambassadorial role, it would be Lambert.

The player got it all right. From the goals to the attitude on and off the pitch, down to the way he left the club, the man was a class act.

When Matthew Le Tissier hung up his boots, I never thought I'd see a player that commanded my utmost respect as Lambert did.

The full page advert he put in the Echo showed just what a class act the man was. Lallana's rather pompous attempt to follow him just looked contrived and shallow, Lambert was the real deal.

With Manchester United losing to Midtjylland on Thursday, you'd be completely within your rights to ask just why Morgan Schneiderlin bothered with his transfer at all?

If he wanted to lose to Midtjylland on a cold wet Thursday evening then he may just as well have stayed at Saints.

Surely no player can represent



Morgan Schneiderlin gives chase to former Saints colleague James Ward-Prowse.



Saints legend Rickie Lambert.

that sort of bizarre change of fortune better than Schneiderlin?

You have to ask yourself what the man has to do to merit a first team place and keep it?

At Saints he was arguably one of the best midfielders in the country and his stats and influence on the first team proved that.

He's moved to a vastly sub-standard United team and still can't force his way into that.

What bizarre game is van Gall playing, as it surely isn't football?

His tactics are so disastrous and negative that you can help but feel that a repeat of Messi and Suarez's penalty pass would have resulted in a penalty pass from Rooney to Martial to Fellaini and then back to De Gea.

United's fall from grace, Arsenal's stuttering form and City and Chelsea's ability to screw things up have made this season the most open in years.

Like most Saints fans, I would loath and detest Tottenham chal-

lenging for the title but, with everyone beating everyone, Spurs could sneak up on the rails.

But, with Saints facing Chelsea soon and United facing Arsenal, then fifth place is very much up for grabs.

Should Saints snatch that fifth place from United, after a poor run of form previously, then this season would yet again mark a huge improvement on the last.

For a team like Southampton, all you can ask is an improvement on the previous season.

That said, if we do finish fifth you have to ask: Where do we go from there?

The answer is we can't finish any higher, we just can't.

Leicester are finally beginning to look vulnerable and next season, should they fail to win the league, they'll get picked apart and find their top talent linked with club after club after club.

The irony is, unless it's now Manchester City or Arsenal, what player would leave Leicester for the likes of United or Chelsea? A huge amount of money would have to be spent and you can see that looming on the horizon with Guardiola on his way and Chelsea bound to start rebuilding.

The answer for Saints fans is, next season will very, very tough indeed. Keep hold of our brightest talent, get rid of what doesn't want to stay, invest that money wisely, and you feel you'll be alright...

You've just got to have faith.

Saints go head first

From front page

Ronald Koeman's side have hit a joint-high with Crystal Palace of 25 crosses per game, which is one better than even Manchester City who are famous for their expensive wingers.

That has helped them to score more headed goals than any other top flight side this season.

They started as they meant to go on with two headed goals in their opening Premier League game of the season as both Long and Graziano Pelle converted in the 2-2 draw with Newcastle.

Pelle got another in the air in the 3-2 loss to Manchester United at St Mary's before Virgil van Dijk scored his ever Saints goal, flicking in from a set-piece against Swansea.

Jose Fonte proved he was also a threat in the opposition area as he netted as Saints went 2-0 up to Leicester before being pegged back for a draw.

Pelle got his third headed goal of the season against Bournemouth before Long got in on the act, bagging what proved to be a consolation as Saints went down 3-1 to Manchester City.

Fonte bagged another in the 4-0 romp over Arsenal before Long's efforts against Watford and Swansea, which were sandwiched by Austin's goal at Old Trafford.

It is perhaps a bit of a surprise that Saints have been so strong with crosses and headers given their reputation as one of the best footballing sides in the top flight.

However, they have clearly played to their strengths, with virtually a third of all their 34 league goals this season coming via headers.

Here's a rundown of their headed goals this term:

09/08 Shane Long D 2-2 (A) Newcastle

09/08: Graziano Pelle D 2-2 (A) Newcastle

20/09: Graziano Pelle L 3-2 (H) Manchester United

26/09: Virgil van Dijk W 3-1 (H) Swansea

17/10: Jose Fonte D 2-2 (H) Leicester

01/11: Graziano Pelle W 2-0 (H) Cherries

28/11: Shane Long L 3-1 (A) Manchester City

26/12: Jose Fonte W 4-0 (H) Arsenal

13/01: Shane Long W 2-0 (H) Watford

23/01: Charlie Austin W 1-0 (A) Manchester United

13/02: Shane Long W 1-0 (A) Swansea

Non league FOOTBALL



Joe Prodomo

Bash manager misses first point of campaign

BASHLEY manager Tom Prodomo missed out on the biggest night of the New Forest club's season.

While he was away enjoying a short half-term break, Bash finally banked their first Southern One South & West point of 2015/16 – after a wait of 27 games!

With assistant coach Andy Howard and assistant manager Paul Morris taking care of team affairs, a 0-0 shut-out against Mansfield warmed up 71 hardy souls on a chilly night at Bashley Road.

There was one Prodomo in attendance – and he was crucial to the groundbreaking scoreline.

Tom's goalkeeping brother Joe – formerly of Fawley and Christchurch – celebrated his return to the club with a clean sheet.

Bash, who have not won a league game since September 2014, are on their third different manager of a torrid campaign.

Ex-Chelsea player Dave Stride was sacked in pre-season after just 40 days in charge and Prodomo took up the reins again in November af-

ter Steve Riley's return to the club had failed to work out.

The only time the Foresters have won all season was a 1-0 FA Trophy result against Cinderford in early October.

Prodomo, whose side have an eye-watering goal difference of -115, said of Tuesday's stalemate: "It's a nice moment for the club in recent times – not just for the players and coaches, but for all the guys around the club who give up their time to prepare the pitch, sort out the bar and clubhouse."

Super fan Dave registers 1,626th Spitfires game

Supporter sees Eastleigh lose to Gateshead

EASTLEIGH super fan Dave Wright chalked up his 1,626th Spitfires game at Gateshead in midweek – spending 16 hours travelling some 690 miles there and back!

The fans left the Silverlake Stadium at 10.50 on Tuesday morning and didn't arrive back until 5.50am on Wednesday.

So, no fanciful overnight hotel stays for die hard Dave, who lives in Harestock on the outskirts of Winchester and has supported Eastleigh since the late 70s, *writes Mike Vimpany*.

In fact, it really was a 24-hour day of dedication for Wright, who has visited all 92 Football League stadiums and is busily ticking off the boxes of all the National League grounds too.

Here's how Dave Wright's Gateshead day panned out –

- 5.30am – started work
- 9.30am – left work after a four-hour shift
- 10.50am – left Eastleigh on the supporters' minibus
- Pit stops at Towcester and twice more on the M1
- 6.50pm – arrived Gateshead International Stadium
- 7.45pm – Match kicks off
- 8.04pm – Gateshead 1 Eastleigh 0
- 8.08pm – Gateshead 2 Eastleigh 0
- 8.30pm – half-time coffee and a meat pie, with mushy peas
- 9.20pm – Gateshead 2 Eastleigh 1 : Josh Payne gives Wright and his pals fresh hope
- 9.35pm – Final whistle. It's now ten matches without a Spitfires win
- 9.50pm – back on the minibus,



Dave Wright in cricketing action for Flamingo.

with no time for a post-match pint

- 1.30am – a solitary 20-minute M1 service station pit stop for a coffee
- 5.50am – arrive back at Eastleigh FC
- 6.15am – Back at work for a five-hour shift before finishing at 11am.

"It was a pretty exhausting day, one for the proper fan," Dave smiled.

"Something that did confuse us was when Gateshead announced the official attendance as 648 – with 25 from Eastleigh.

"We're not sure where they got our travelling number from as all

13 of us, plus the mini-bus driver, all sat together in the main stand."

A horse racing fanatic, Dave umpires local Premier League cricket in the summer months, having been a handy spin bowler for Flamingo in his playing days.

Cup win shows how far Otters have come

OTTERBOURNE manager Richard Luffman believes that his Hampshire Premier League high fliers have made a huge statement about their Sydenhams League credentials.

Otters reached the semi-finals of the Russell Cotes Cup with a stunning 2-1 win at Wessex Premier League outfit Moneyfields, writes PETER HOWARD.

They now have a last four tie with another Wessex side, AFC Portchester.

"All season long I've been telling people that we were a Wessex Prem side playing in the Hampshire league and we proved that with a convincing win away at Moneys to reach the semi finals of the Russell Cotes," he said.

"To be in the hat with sides like that shows how far the club has come over the last couple of years."

Hotshot striker Tom Sands netted both goals in the narrow win, taking his tally to 37 for the season.

Moneys grabbed a consolation goal in injury time at the end of the match.

"He played like his hero Didier Drogba on the night, powerful and strong," said elated Luffman.

"Tom got one early in the first half and the second on 60 mins.

"It was great up. We were at a tough, physical Pompey side in red and white striped shirts.

Stepped up to the plate

"Being a Southampton side was always going to add a little to the game but we deserved winners. "We did this with young Sparsholt scholar Jack Nicholls aged 16 finishing the game at the heart of the defence and two 18 year old centre midfield players.

"Every player stepped up to the plate and delivered what I would say was the biggest win this millennium for Otterbourne and possibly the biggest win in our 54 history to reach such a big competition semi final."

Luffman continued: "As the manager of the football club all of these nights wouldn't of been possible without having the right people at the club behind us.

"I have without doubt the best chairman in Stu Munro who lets me get on and manage the club as I see fit.

"And the squad have been committed to the cause and been exceptional on and off the park and I think as a football club we are ready to be in and around these sort of sides on a weekly basis and if we can't do that due to planning restrictions from the local council that would be a massive shame as we are trying our very best.

"Otterbourne as a village should be proud of the side that they have representing them."



Richard Luffman

'Fall guy' Topley not to blame for defeat

EOIN Morgan knows it is England's batsmen, not Reece Topley, who must improve if they are to hit back for a Twenty20 series draw this weekend.

Morgan absolved Hampshire star Topley of blame for Friday's last-ball defeat by three wickets against South Africa at Newlands - where the left-arm seamer was the fall-guy who conceded 15 from the final over of the home run chase.

Chris Morris again landed the knockout blow with his brilliant late hitting, clubbing 14 runs from the last five balls in a reprise of his maiden one-day international 50 to level that series at the Wanderers a week earlier.

Morgan's team must pick themselves up, back in Johannesburg on Sunday, having seen their winning streak of six in the sprint format ended - despite a fine performance in the field, capped by Chris Jordan's three for 23, as they tried to defend 134 for eight.

The captain identified an under-par performance with the bat for England's troubles, rather than Topley - whose telling over was the most expensive of a match dominated by bowlers.

Morgan said it would be "very unfair" to criticise the 21-year-old, who had one last chance to salvage a tie and send the contest into a super over but could not gather a throw from long-off to complete the necessary run-out.

"The bowling unit as a whole did exceptionally well - there was no bowler that let himself down here tonight," said the England captain.

"I think we probably lost the game with the bat. The basics of just adapting to the wicket, we didn't do well enough.

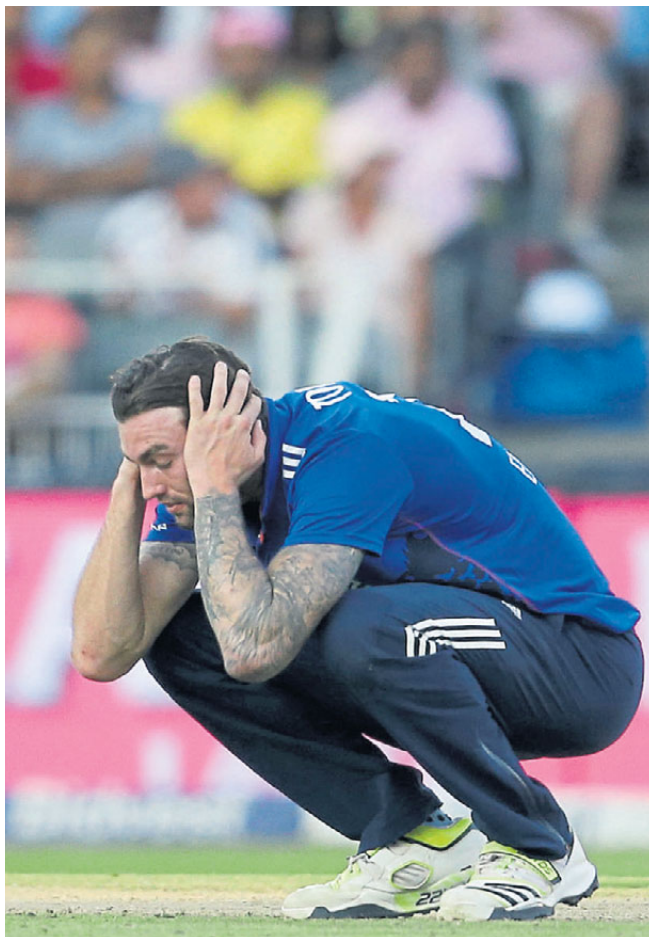
"We let ourselves down with a little bit of lack of awareness."

Morgan, like his opposite number Faf du Plessis, indicated that England's batsmen failed to assess the situation accurately on a used pitch.

"It's easy to play with the mode of batting on good wickets, and expecting that all the time.

"The hardest thing is to get your nut down and score 150-155 - which would have been par."

As for Topley, Morgan is confident



England bowler Reece Topley during the 4th One Day International

he will react favourably to a tough experience.

"I think he'll handle it really well," he said.

"He's obviously very disappointed at the moment, but he has a huge amount of character - that's the reason he plays for us.

"He has great skill, and he keeps delivering.

"We see a huge amount of potential in him, and the biggest compliment I can pay him at the minute is if we played the same game tomorrow and I needed him to bowl the last over I'd have every faith in him."

South Africa leg-spinner Imran Tahir was named man of the match after equalling his career best with figures of four for 21.

'Why I will always hold Hampshire dear to my heart' - Balcombe

FORMER Hampshire bowler David Balcombe this week announced his retirement from first-class cricket with immediate effect.

Balcombe, 31, was due to start his eleventh season in county cricket with Surrey but has now decided to retire to work full time for the Kevin Pietersen Foundation.

London-born Balcombe made his debut for Durham UCCE against Somerset in 2005 and played three seasons of first-class cricket for the university before he made his County Championship bow for Hampshire against Kent at Southampton in September 2007.

He played for Hampshire until 2014, including a successful spell on loan with Kent in 2011, before he joined Surrey for last season.

"To play professional cricket was a dream come true and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute," Balcombe said.

"Hampshire gave me my first opportunity in the professional game and it is the club I will always hold close to my heart.

"I have made lifelong friends, experienced some wonderful career moments and it provided me with 10 seasons of immense enjoyment.

"One of my proudest moments was receiving my county cap in 2013 which is something I will always cherish.

"I will forever remain indebted to Kent for the tremendous support I received when I went on loan to them for a short time. They helped me immensely with my cricket and also as an individual. Every time I think of the St Lawrence Ground it will be with a huge smile.

"As a boy I had always dreamed of playing for Surrey, my home county. When, in 2015, I was given the chance to go back to where I began my cricket career it was too big an opportunity to turn down.

"I am very grateful to Surrey for all their support this year and for their help and understanding in my decision to retire.

"I would like to mention Graeme Fowler for the influential impact he had on my development during my time at Durham University. His belief in me helped me to develop the skills required to become a professional cricketer."

Balcombe also thanked the Professional Cricketers' Association and his parents for their support and help.

"I would like to mention the PCA for their help and guidance throughout my time as a professional cricketer. In particular, their support was invaluable in helping me with my decision to retire. The process would have been significantly harder without them," he said.

"My Personal Development work with the PCA has armed me with the ability to transfer from one career to the next and is something I really do not take lightly.

"I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to my parents for their constant support of my cricket growing up as well as through a professional career with plenty of ups and downs."

Balcombe made 67 first-class appearances and took 196 wickets. He took five wickets in an innings on nine occasions and twice took ten wickets in a match.

His best figures of 8-71 were taken for Hampshire against Gloucestershire at The Ageas Bowl in April 2012 and his three second-innings wickets gave him a best match haul of 11-119.

He also scored 958 runs, including three half centuries and a top score of 73 in a record tenth-wicket stand of 168 with Chris Wood against Leicestershire in 2012.

In one-day cricket Balcombe took 18 wickets in 14 matches with one wicket in three Twenty20 appearances.



David Balcombe



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Non league FOOTBALL



10 May 2014 - Sholing V West

Non-League double header day a first at Wembley

WEMBLEY Stadium will host its first ever non-League double header in May with both the FA Trophy and FA Vase finals being played on the same day.

The Vase final will kick off at 12.15pm on Sunday, May 22, with the Trophy to follow at 4.15pm. BT Sport will broadcast both fixtures.

North Ferriby beat Wrexham 5-4 on penalties in 2015 to win the FA Trophy for the first time in their history, while North Shields succeeded Sholing as FA Vase victors after defeating Glossop

North End.

Tickets for this year's FA Non-League Finals Day are on sale now, priced £25 adults, £10 concessions and just £1 for under-16s. There is also a group rate, perfect for schools and clubs, of £12.50 adults, £5 concessions and £1 children.

For each booking (not ticket), the option will be given to donate £2.50 to Sport Relief.

The ticket hotline number is 0844 826 2010. For disabled tickets please call 0800 167 2007 (option 7).

● Havant & Waterlooville have sent two of their major summer signings out on loan. Striker Marvin Morgan has joined league rivals Wealdstone for the rest of the season, while injury-plagued midfielder Adrian Clifton is off to get match fit by spending a month with Staines Town.

● Bemerton are looking for a manager to run their 2016/17 reserve side, hopefully in the Wyvern Combination League. Contact chairman Steve Slade on 07798 732799.

3G pitches are giving home sides 'advantage', says Pike

Borough suffer injury time defeat on artificial grass

WITH heavy winter rainfall continuing to play havoc, 3G all-weather pitches could be the way forward for non-League clubs.

But Gosport Borough boss Alex Pike is not a fan.

Following last Saturday's 2-1 National League South defeat on Maidstone United's synthetic surface, he didn't hold back on his opinion of the Gallagher Stadium's artificial grass.

"I'm in danger of sounding like sour grapes, but in the warm-up my players felt it would be an unrealistic game of football," he explained. "When the rain came, it helped, but the ball was all over the place, it wasn't running properly."

"I've said consistently that 3G pitches shouldn't be allowed. It's not realistic."

"I lost Brett Poate to injury because of it, as his calf injury flared up. And I've got a player in Luke King, who is ready to return from a knee injury, but he has a letter from a consultant saying he mustn't play on 3G during his rehabilitation. So there must be something in it."

"I'm a traditionalist and I firmly believe football should be played on grass."

"Maidstone play on that pitch week in, week out and know how to play it. They get an advantage."

"It's a bit like a golfer playing on his home course."

"They might point to the fact that they have lost five at home and say it isn't an advantage, but it certainly was today."

Pike added: "Maidstone are a good footballing side, but no-one will ever convince me otherwise that they play on a 3G pitch and know how to play it. "We played Havant & Waterlooville on a beach, but I'm a traditionalist and I would rather play on that pitch than a 3G one."

"It's not an excuse as to why we



Gosport manager Alex Pike and, inset, Brett Poate (right of pic)

lost, but we have been sold down the river and it should never have been allowed."

After Gosport's Rory Williams hit the bar from 25 yards, it was Maidstone who took the lead when Jamie Coyle headed home a 64th-minute

corner. Borough levelled when sub David Gerrard's ball deflected in off home defender Bobby-Joe Taylor with just nine minutes of normal time to go.

But with the top-five promotion clash deep into stoppage time, sub

Alex Flisher dealt Gosport a killer blow with a left-foot strike past Nathan Ashmore.

"It's gutting, we didn't deserve that," said Pike. "As the away side, we did what we had to do, but we didn't shut up shop at the end."

Browne in Blake row

WIMBORNE Town boss Simon Browne was left scratching his head over Bournemouth Poppies swooping for Jon Blake.

Midfield talisman and fans' favourite Blake, who switched to Magpies from Poppies in March 2012, returned to Victoria Park last week but also remains registered at Cuthbury.

The move sees Blake, 28, follow winger Carl Preston and goalkeeper Shane Murphy through the exit door as the reality of Wimborne's axed playing budget begins to bite. Browne could not hide his frustration.

"Jon is a good character and the sort of lad you know you will always get 100 per cent from," he said.

"It is good of Poppies to help with his bills seeing as we are not in a position to do that."

"I say that tongue in cheek because it is good that players are able to go elsewhere and get some money, but you do have to question the logic behind it."

"As good as Blakey is, Poppies aren't suddenly going to turn into a top-five side with one player."

"He said if we could sort out our financial situation then he would be back next season and that he may be available to help us out when Poppies don't have a game."

Poppies boss Ken Vaughan was unimpressed by Browne's comments, stating: "The 'logic' behind signing Jon is that we want to win every time we play, no matter where we are."

"Tongue in cheek or otherwise, it's a bit disrespectful that Simon thinks we are financially securing his future. We have to look at every penny just to run the club, never mind paying out big wages for players."

"I was sad to hear Simon make that statement about somebody who won awards and made himself so popular by doing well for Wimborne."

Following goalkeeper Murphy's departure, Wimborne have signed Patrick O'Flaherty on a month's loan from AFC Bournemouth.

The young stopper had an impressive spell with AFC Totton last season.



Jon Blake, left

Non league FOOTBALL



Hot prospect Baily scores his first professional goal



BailyCargill

FORMER AFC Totton loanee Baily Cargill has scored his first domestic professional goal.

The AFC Bournemouth centre back, who joined Coventry City on transfer deadline day, poked home 11 minutes into his home debut for the Sky Blues last Saturday.

And, to cap a perfect afternoon, he kept a clean sheet – alongside fellow loanee Jack Stephens of Southampton – in a 6-0 League One thumping of Bury.

Former Leicester and Southampton

youngster Cargill, who is yet to make a league appearance for Cherries, is due to remain with Coventry until the end of the campaign.

Cherries boss Eddie Howe said: "The first thing I'm looking for is for him to get minutes and to play.

"Secondly, I want him to play well and show he is better than the level he is playing at.

"We are in the Premier League so he has to go to Coventry and, hopefully, prove he is better than everybody else

and build his experiences."

Cargill's strike arrived on his 17th senior appearance, having made 10 for Cherries in Cup competitions.

The 20-year-old defender's most recent Bournemouth outing came at the end of January when he featured in the FA Cup fourth round win at Portsmouth.

The Winchester-born youngster, who has previously had non-league loan spells with AFC Totton, Welling United and Torquay, has been tipped as a Cherries captain of the future by Howe.

Hammers lose but youth get a chance

WITH several key players out, Hamworthy United named four under-18s in their squad for last Saturday's Sydenhams Premier trip to Team Solent.

The Hammers travelled to Test Park shorn of top scorer Matt Kemble, Brad Gale and Billy Walker, while Jack Satterley and Kane Daysh were serving suspensions.

Those losses took their toll as the Dorset visitors fell 2-0 into arrears against the vibrant Southampton Solent University side who scored through Tobi Adekunle and top scorer Jesse Waller-Lassen.

Good opportunity

A Paddy Hester penalty gave the Hammers hope with around 15 minutes to play, but Solent netted again through Martin Johnson to extend their winning streak to six matches.

"We had quite a few players out, so it was a good opportunity for some of our younger lads to play," said Hammers boss Shane Traynor.

"I thought we did really well and showed good quality on the ball. But, to be fair to Team Solent, they edged it by being ruthless in front of goal.

Difference

"We had a couple of chances that we could not take and that proved to be the difference.

"Team Solent were well-drilled and it was difficult to play against them."

It left Traynor with just two wins from nine matches since returning to The County Ground helm in December from a five-week sabbatical.

"It's been tough, but things are turning around," said the boss.



Team Solent's Tobi Adekunle (Good opp Goodred) proving a handful

Harlequins hero Cook turns villain after missing penalty

Planemakers owe thanks to keeper after crucial save

RUSSELL Cook turned from hero to zero in the space of five rollercoaster days for Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

One minute he was tucking into a four-goal feast in Bemerton's 7-3 Sydenhams Premier win over Brockenhurst.

The next, he had a dream chance to score amid the lean pickings of last Saturday's 0-0 draw against basement boys Folland Sports, but saw his late penalty saved by 'keeper Ross Casey.

"Cooky went from hero to villain," said Harlequins boss Graham Kemp.

"But his logic to me was 'I got you three points on Tuesday and cost you two on Saturday, so I'm still a point up for the week'.

Although Kemp felt Heath were the more positive side on the day, he didn't begrudge the Planemakers their point.

"Only one team turned up to win it and that was us, but I couldn't fault Folland's effort," he said.

"They came here and set their stall out to make it difficult for us.

"To a man, they worked themselves to a standstill.

"It's up to teams like us to try and break them down, but we just couldn't get the goal.

"Apart from the penalty I don't think Folland made a mistake to give us a chance, so credit to them for that."

Despite the uninspiring scoreline, Planemakers' boss Dave Herbert described it as "the most entertaining 0-0 I've ever seen."

"It was a bit of a barnstormer," he said. "We worked our socks off and hit them on the break really well.

"Bemerton must have had 15-odd shots and we had eight or 10, but Max Frampton's a big presence in goal for them and we just lacked that final finish.

"Rosco [Casey] did well too. It's not just his shot-stopping, but his decision-making is so good. He gave



Russell Cook on the ball for Bemerton.

a penalty away when he came out and took the man and the ball, but he smothered the kick well."

● FOLLAND Sports' 0-0 draw at Bemerton Heath Harlequins last Saturday was their first clean sheet of a difficult Sydenhams Premier Division season.

Jamie Blackburn played a big part in keeping the Harlequins at bay with another pedigree performance at right back.

But the problem manager Dave Herbert has is convincing the former Eastleigh, AFC Totton and Brockenhurst player that his future lies in

that position rather than in the midfield engine room.

"Jamie prefers playing in central midfield but we've asked him to play right back to try and shore things up a bit," said the boss.

"He's a quality right-back and it's hard to get it through to him that he's not as good in central midfield.

"He played really well again at Bemerton and that was our first league clean sheet. Our only other one was when we beat Fareham 1-0 at the start of the season, but that was in the Hampshire Senior Cup."

With Matt Andrews, Cain Prentice and Liam Golding all injured and

Dan Spreadbury unwell, Folland's were forced to ring the changes for the trip to Western Way.

Dan Wilkins slotted in at left back, Alex Sheath returned up top and midfielder Jamie Craven started his first game in a long while following a spell out with work commitments.

Just as in the previous week's 3-2 win over Verwood, Elliot Richards put in a tasty tackle or two for the Planemakers.

Herbert said: "Elliot likes a battle and Bemerton were playing the ref a lot, trying to get him sent off.

"But Elliot's quality. He's got a real engine on him."

Non league FOOTBALL



Danny Phillips, right

Teenager Jarvis has a bright future ahead, says Whitchurch boss

CARL Bennett is convinced Basingstoke Town academy striker Aaron Jarvis has a rosy future.

Bennett, manager of Sydenhams Premier outfit Whitchurch United, feels fortunate to have Jarvis in his side right now, dual-signed from their Vanarama National League South neighbours.

Still only 17, Jarvis has adapted brilliantly to men's football and forged an excellent partnership with Jam Boys' top scorer Danny Phillips.

"Aaron's a decent size, about 6ft tall, and he plays the game so well," said Bennett.

"He's only 17, but he shows a maturity beyond his years. To watch him, you'd think he was a seasoned 25-year-old. I'd expect him to be involved with Basingstoke's first team in a year or so.

"He's scored seven goals in ten games for us and that's a massive return for such a young player.

"It's not just the goals he scores ei-

ther, he has a big influence creating chances for others."

Jarvis' height perfectly complements the smaller Phillips who, once again this season, is giving Wessex defences the runaround.

The former Romsey marksman has an impressive 21 goals in his account from 32 starts.

Bennett said: "Everyone knows what Danny's about. He's got pace and so has Aaron and they can both play off the shoulder. Danny's really ben-

efitting from having a bit of support alongside him."

Sydenhams Premier basement boys Folland put in notice of approach for Phillips last week, but Bennett said: "Danny's not going anywhere.

"What a lot of people don't realise is that Danny's dad, Dean, is my assistant manager.

"The only reason he would go anywhere is to go higher. But last season he turned down Sholing and this season he's turned down Winchester."

Jam Boys welcome familiar faces back to Longmeadow

Plummer, Gill and Lambert return to Whitchurch team

WHITCHURCH United have welcomed three familiar faces back to the Longmeadow fold.

Rudi Plummer, Ryan Lambert and Zac Gill have all retraced their steps to north Hampshire to assist the Jam Boys' climb from the Sydenhams Premier danger zone.

Nomadic frontman Plummer has returned from Sydenhams Premier rivals Moneyfields, while midfielder man Lambert has regained his appetite for playing after helping out with Sholing reserves.

Centre-half Gill, meanwhile, is back after a spell away from the area.

Manager Carl Bennett explained: "We signed Zac from Fareham back in September/October time and he played a few games before he had to move away to Slough.

"He played some Southern League games last year for Marlow, but he's moved back to Southampton now and we haven't lost since he returned.

Appetite back

"Rudi played his first game back on Saturday (scoring in the 7-1 trouncing of Alresford) and I've told him he needs to settle down and stick with one club.

"Ryan Lambert's also back. He had a lot on with university work and couldn't commit to football. He fell out of love a bit with the game.

"He was helping to run the reserves at Sholing, but we had a good chat three or four weeks ago and he's got his appetite back."

Alresford boss Martin Beck handed debuts to defender Jack Goodship and former Andover striker Oliver Yates, while another new face, Ryan Davis, joined the game for the last quarter of an hour off the bench.

None of the Alresford players – new or old – will have much cause to look



Whitchurch's Ryan Lambert, left.

back on this game with any fondness.

They created plenty of chances – Yates, Rian Jima-Otero and Aaron Blaxall all hit the woodwork in the first half, and two "goals" were disallowed for fouls. But plenty of good approach play was spoilt by hesitancy in front of goal.

The Jam Boys, by contrast, were clinical in their finishing as Lam-

bert, Jack McCarthy, Plummer, Danny Phillips (2), Scott Hassell and Aaron Jarvis cashed in.

Whitchurch's scheduled game against Folland Sports was rained off on Wednesday, but there had been more bad news for Alresford the night before.

They lost again, 2-0 to Moneyfields, at a chilly Arlebury Park.

Moneys – boosted by the signing of former Horndean midfielder Alex Miroy from Liss – won thanks to a goal in each half from Gary Austin.

Alresford came strong, but efforts by Cliff Walters, John Mulhern and Aaron Blaxall were either blocked or off target.

Austin could have had a hat-trick, but Ben Kneller saved with his legs.

Winger to be shared with Poole

CROWD favourite Carl Preston was this week due to re-sign for Poole Town on dual-registration with new club Blackfield & Langley.

The ex-Tatnam winger has switched from ailing Wimborne Town to reunite with former team-mate and Gang Warily boss Glenn Howes.

And although Preston will give priority to the Sydenhams Wessex League title chasers, Dolphins manager Tom Killick was set to reclaim his Southern League registration.

Knows the score

"We know what Prezzo is all about and it just gives us another option on the occasions it suits everyone concerned," Killick explained.

"I spoke to (Wimborne manager) Simon Browne about that before he left Wimborne, he knows the score and Glenn Howes has agreed too.

"Blackfield will retain first call on his services, but having him on hand could be a real boost."

● **STEVE Harvey** has returned to the role of chairman with Sydenhams Premier Division outfit Hamworthy United.

Former Poole Town and Wimborne Town director Harvey had previously held the position for two years until 2015.



Carl Preston

Non league FOOTBALL



Paul Masters

Rowland welcomed aboard City's backroom staff

WINCHESTER City have welcomed former Hythe & Dibden coach Dave Rowland on to their backroom staff following his departure from AFC Totton.

Rowland, who has also worked at Locks Heath and Folland Sports, holds a UEFA B Licence, is a Youth Module 3 Coach and works full-time in football for The FA.

"We felt we needed an extra body

on board and we'll take each game as it comes," said manager Paul Masters.

"I'd rather be hands-on with the coaching, but it's nice sometimes to take a step back and get more time with the players individually.

"Sometimes there's just too much to do and I need to delegate things a bit better."

Rowland arrived at Totton last

summer as part of a three-strong coaching team with head coach Lee Burch and goalkeeping coach Jamie Cotton.

Burch is still with the Stags, but Cotton has moved on to Southern One Central outfit Petersfield Town.

*Northwood beat Godalming Town 2-0 in the Red Insure Cup in mid-week, earning a March 2 trip to Winchester City in the quarter-finals.

Pulling no punches

IRATE boss Tom Killick pulled no punches after watching Poole Town fritter more valuable points as their quest for Southern League promotion continued to stutter.

Killick accused his team of "capitulating" after they had surrendered a two-goal lead and been held to a 2-2 draw by Premier rivals Biggleswade on Tuesday, writes Neil Perrett.

And he slammed as "unacceptable and inexcusable" an abject second-half showing which allowed the visitors to leave Tatnam with a share of the spoils.

First-half goals from Luke Roberts and Marvin Brooks put Poole in the ascendancy, only for the Waders to hit back through Craig Daniel and Inih Effiong.

Poole's slip allowed Chippenham - 1-0 winners at Paulton - to join them at the summit, the Wiltshire outfit having eroded Dolphins' 12-point lead since the turn of the year.

Killick, who has seen Poole remain unbeaten since the end of November but draw six of their past nine games, said: "It is difficult to stomach when you get yourself in such a dominant position and then capitulate in the manner we did.

"When the stakes are so high, such a lack of resilience and spirit is completely unacceptable and inexcusable.

"It very much replicated the performance and result against Slough, another game where we dropped points at home in circumstances when it should never have happened.

"It is something we have to consider very strongly because people are quick to criticise due to the position we are in now and the position we have been in previously.

"We have to be mentally strong enough to deal better with the pressure and circumstances of situations. It is something which has to be resolved."

Poole, who have suffered one league defeat in 15, have two games in hand on Chippenham.



Tom Killick.

Classic Bentley won't take his feet off the gas at City!

Malone: Players find it so hard to pick up Warren

CENTURY-MAKER Warren Bentley will never be allowed to take his foot off the goal-scoring gas as long as Dave Malone is around.

"I always say to him, your last goal is your goal - it's the next one that counts!" smiled Winchester's City director of football.

But even Malone had to admit that Bentley's achievement of reaching 100 Winchester goals this week was pretty special considering he has yet to complete two seasons back at the club.

The twinkle-toed number 10 brought up his century with two typically brilliant strikes at Marlow on Tuesday as Winchester narrowed the gap on Southern One South & West leaders Cinderford to just one point with a 3-0 victory.

Amazing

"It's amazing," said Malone.

"None of us realised he'd scored 100 goals until he told us. As unassuming as he is, he keeps count of all the goals he's scored!

"His first one at Marlow was typically him, a left-foot strike from outside the area. The second one he smashed in after playing a one-two with Zach Glasspool.

"That's the thing about Warren, he can score all sorts of goals from all sorts of angles - right-foot, left-foot, even headers.

"He's a bit like Forbesy, he never scores a bad goal.

Goal machine

"He doesn't play like a forward, he drops deep and plays like an attacking midfielder. That's why defenders find it so hard to pick him up.

That man Forbesy - AKA Andy Forbes - was another great Winchester goal machine during Malone's previous stint at the helm.

The Reading-based hotshot continued to score for Eastleigh in the



Warren Bentley scores one of his 100 goals for Winchester City.

Conference South and while no one at Winchester doubts Bentley's ability to play higher, Malone is quietly hoping he will stay put beyond this season.

"If a pro club came in and offered him £2,000 a week, it might be different, but I don't even speak to Warren about it [moving] any more.

Unassuming

"He's a round peg in a round hole at Winchester and with two-thirds of the season gone, there's still all to play for.

"Warren's such a nice, unassuming lad who's a pleasure to work with. But nice as he is, he takes his football really seriously.

"When we were playing against [bottom club] Bashley and winning 2-0, he went off on one because we weren't playing too well.

"That's a big plus as far as I'm concerned because it shows he cares.

"A lot of lads who score as many goals as he does would be a bit arrogant, but Warren's a genuinely nice guy and he's a big part of the club.

"People forget that he was with Winchester before as a youngster, so he's almost a local lad and he's got a lot of affection for this club."

In awe

Manager Paul Masters is equally in awe of what his free-scoring skipper has achieved in such a short space of

time.

"We all talk about Warren and his goals but at the end of the day, 100 in one-and-a-half years is an unbelievable achievement," he marvelled.

"Warren scores all sorts of goals, not just tap-ins, and his all-round game has improved 100 per cent. He's got that edge to his game that you need to go higher.

Good lad

"He's such a good lad to have around the club.

"He's our captain, he's got a lot of respect from the players and he's got time for everyone here.

"I can't speak highly enough of him."

Non league FOOTBALL

Ex-Spur Jesse still craves a professional career

Goal ace would only leave Team Solent if it was a good step up

TEAM Solent have certainly made their mark on the Wessex top flight since graduating from Sydenhams One.

And no one has caught the eye more for the Southampton Solent University outfit than 'head boy' Jesse Waller-Lassen.

The gifted 23-year-old forward from Crouch End, North London, spent his formative footballing years at Tottenham Hotspur where he was a contemporary of England striker Harry Kane.

He worked his way through the Spurs ranks from under-15s to under-21s, joining as a schoolboy and completing a two-year scholarship with the Premier League outfit.

Tottenham thought highly enough of him to hand him a one-year pro contract but, like so many young hopefuls, he didn't quite make the cut.

Reflecting on that difficult time, Waller-Lassen, said: "There was lots going on. I was injured, I wasn't in favour with the manager and I got released for whatever reason. When it happens, you've got to assume you're not good enough for what they're looking for."

"I went to Bishop's Stortford, who were in the Conference North at the time, and a guy who worked for the FA who I knew from Spurs told me about a scheme they were bringing in to take players (who had been released from pro club academies) to universities and he put me in touch with Solent."

Craves

Having done a year's foundation degree, Waller-Lassen is now halfway through a three-year degree in applied sports science.

Part of the High Performance Academy, he was crowned Solent's sportsman of the year for 2014/15 having captained Team Solent to the Sydenhams One title and victory at St Mary's in the Southampton Senior Cup final.

Like most former Academy players, Waller-Lassen still craves a future in the professional game and has recently been on trial with Sky Bet League Two outfit Yeovil Town.

If something should come of the Glovers' interest, so much the better.

If not, he will happily continue giving Wessex defences the runaround with Team Solent.

"I would like to play at a higher level but, if that's not possible, then Solent is right for me," he said.

"I'm really enjoying my football at the moment and, if I were to leave Solent, it would have to be a step up."

"For my style of football, Solent is a nice fit. I don't see the point of just jumping up one league."

"I've been to Yeovil, had three games and one training session and shown what I can do."

"I feel I did enough in the trial games and did myself justice. If they want my style of player they will sign me."

"It's definitely flattering and nice to know they're at least interested in me."

Team Solent boss James Taylor, a former England non-League international, will back



Jesse Waller-Lassen runs at the Hamworthy defence last weekend.



Jesse Waller-Lassen goes for goal against Hamworthy United last weekend.

his skipper in whatever he wants to do, but is convinced he should be playing higher.

At just 5ft 7in, Waller-Lassen is never going to pose the sort of aerial threat his manager was famed for.

But he is quick, blessed with good feet and an eye for goal and has already scored 20 goals this season and assisted in many more.

"Dorchester (of the Southern Premier Division) tried their luck and put in an approach

which was turned down," said Taylor.

"No one is going to hold Jesse back if the right club comes in, but he's better than just one or two levels up. He needs to crack on."

"Jesse's not a Wessex League player but, while he's being looked after by the university, there's no reason to leave unless the right club comes in."

"He's got one and a half years left at uni and that's the most important thing."

Magnificent seven up for Team Solent

TEAM Solent's 3-0 Southampton Senior Cup victory at Lymington Town on Tuesday was their seventh win on the bounce.

Being a university side, they have inevitable peaks and troughs and are only ever at their strongest during term time.

But, as their rivals have found to their cost in recent weeks, Solent's youth and energy makes them a tough side to cope with when they are at their best.

Manager James Taylor said: "We do miss players at certain times of the year because they go home, have dissertations to do etc. and their uni work comes first."

"But at the moment we've got 16-18 players around who are all fit, strong, playing well and impressive."

"They're a young, fit group who get around the pitch well and we've trained hard in the last few weeks. It helps that we've got a 3G facility available while some of the other clubs are unable to train."

"It's a fact that in the last 20 minutes of games we really do step it up and come on strong. But it's important that we're still in the game at that point. When we've played some of the league's bigger teams, they've already been out of sight."

Martin Johnson carved out the lead at Lymington, Tobi Adekunle doubled it and the last word went to skipper and goal machine Jesse Waller-Lassen.

The only down side of victory was having Adekunle sent off for kicking out in retaliation with around 20 minutes to go.

"The pitch had all sorts of lumps on it, but we acquitted ourselves well," said Taylor. "Lymington were a danger from set plays and put good deliveries into the box."

"Tobi got sent off unfortunately and we'll miss him for three games. He's done really well since coming back to us from Sholing, but we've got plenty of other players waiting to have a go."

Blackfield & Langley are also through to the Southampton Senior Cup last four thanks to a 2-0 win at Romsey Town.

Kick-off was delayed due to a power cut, but goals by Rico Wilson and Dan Munday eventually lit up the night for the Watersiders.

Blackfield will play Netley Central Sports in the semi-finals at AFC Totton's ground on March 2, while Team Solent await the winners of Wednesday's Brockenhurst v Hamble Club tie. That semi-final will be staged at Sholing towards the end of March.



Team Solent celebrate winning

Non league FOOTBALL



New Consortium at SCFC.

Salisbury set to host the Wessex League Cup final

SALISBURY will host the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup final at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium on Monday May 2.

The Whites - currently top of the Premier Division and overwhelmingly the best supported side in the league - beat off competition from four rival clubs to stage the showpiece game.

"We were invited to tender for the final by the League and we are pleased that our tender has been successful," said club chairman Dave Phillips.

"The bid was put together by Amanda Newbery, who sits on our board and advises us, and our club secretary Doug Ferraro, so well done to them.

Boost

"Now we have to do our best to make that final, which would obviously boost the attendance. Whether we do or don't, we are honoured to be staging it and will pull out all the stops to put on a good show."

SWL competition secretary John Gor-

man commented: "We're grateful to the interest shown by all four clubs and we've accepted Salisbury's offer.

"Hopefully, if it's a nice afternoon, it will be well supported."

Braces from new signing Jamie White and Steve Walker carried Salisbury into the last eight with a 4-2 victory over Amesbury Town.

Whites now travel to Team Solent on Monday, February 29 for their quarter-final tie. The semi-finals are scheduled for Tuesday, April 5.

Critchell's loving it ...

EX-SAINT Kyle Critchell is loving life as assistant manager of Sydenhams League One title hopefuls Portland United.

The table-topping Islanders boast the best defensive record in the division and Critchell is highly impressed with the players' drive and discipline.

"It's been completely different to playing and I wouldn't even call myself an assistant as such, to be honest," he confessed.

"It's kind of a first-team coach's role where I oversee the training and Gary (Bailey, manager) is able to watch from afar and make decisions based on observations. I can put the input in and he can feed back to me what we need to work on and how we see the team going on in the future.

"I laugh with Gary because, if I was in my team that I coach, I wouldn't be able to play in it because I ask so much from them outside the ball when we haven't got it.

"I don't think I'd be as disciplined as the lads that have been playing are!"

Experience

While Critchell, 29, has applied to do his UEFA B coaching badge, he feels his experience in the game will stand him in better stead for the future.

The former Wales youth international - an ex-Saints youth/reserve teammate of Gareth Bale - said: "I've sent an application off and had that accepted, it's just time and money to be honest. I'm weighing up whether it's worth it.

"I mean this with a huge deal of respect: A coaching badge is a badge, it's not an experience that someone has got behind them.

"I have got lots of that. I've played from the highest league down to the lowest league and have worked under some of the best coaches to some of the worst coaches.

"My experiences are there and hopefully people can see that.

"We are getting results this year and are not conceding that many goals, that is my remit."

Whites boss makes two new signings for hectic climax

Salisbury face up to 23 games in final few months

SYDENHAMS Premier Division leaders Salisbury have recruited two new faces as they prepare for a chaotic season's finale.

Defender Elliot Wheeler has joined the Whites from Vanarama National League South (VNLS) club Gosport Borough while midfielder Reece Rusher has climbed aboard from Whitchurch United.

Isle of Wight-born Wheeler, 22, began his career in the Portsmouth academy before joining Premier League club Stoke City and captaining their Under-21s.

He turned out for Nuneaton Town on loan in the Conference under Liam Daish before moving closer to home with Gosport at the start of the season.

But, after failing to get regular action under Borough boss Alex Pike, he asked to leave last month to gain regular playing time.

Versatile

Gosport agreed to let him go, but only on the condition that he would not join a rival VNLS club.

"Elliot is a really versatile player and can play right back or centre back," Salisbury boss Claridge explained.

"With Calum Brockway out, we need cover at the back and we are happy to have signed a player of Elliot's pedigree to provide it."

Rusher, a right-sided midfielder, was on the Whites' bench for the midweek Sydenhams Wessex League Cup win over Amesbury Town.

The 19-year-old - son of Andover stalwart Vinnie - has also played for Winchester City and Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

"Reece has been training with us and shown a great attitude," added Claridge. "He is one for the future but will also get some game time between now and the end of the season with so many games to fit in."



Salisbury manager Steve Claridge.

Salisbury were casualties of the weather last Saturday as their top-of-the-table clash at Blackfield & Langley was postponed.

They were today (Saturday) due to host Ashford United in the quarter-finals of the FA Vase, leaving them with 18 league fixtures still to cram

in along with several cup games.

● EX-SAINT Jamie White netted his first hat-trick since returning to Old Sarum as Salisbury advanced to the Wiltshire Senior Cup final with a 6-2 win against Corsham Town.

Whites fell 2-0 down in a sloppy first

half against the Western Premier outfit on Wednesday, but surged back through White (3), Steve Walker (2) and Robbie Matthews.

Bemerton Heath Harlequins or Melksham Town await them in the final, scheduled for April 27.



Kyle Critchell

Zlatan: The time I turned down Saints

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic could move to England after his contract at Paris St Germain expires in the summer.

The striker has never played in the Barclays Premier League after spending his career to date in Sweden, Spain, Italy and France.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at six things you might not know about the Sweden international.

1 A good sleep

Ibrahimovic slept on a mattress on the floor of new team-mate Maxwell's house for three weeks after joining Ajax from Malmo in 2001. The pair are best friends having played at Ajax, Barcelona and PSG together after moving to Holland on the same day.

2 He rejected Southampton

The 34-year-old could have joined Southampton after his first year at Ajax with the Dutch club happy to allow Ibrahimovic to go out on loan after a disappointing first season. He said: "At that time, I thought of Ajax as the top. I had to go somewhere even more at the top. In my mind, I felt that to go from Ajax to Southampton, with all respect to Southampton, I would be taking a step down."

3 Trademark

In 2003 the striker reportedly applied for a 'community trademark', which is



Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates after his goal against Chelsea, valid across the EU, on 'Zlatan' and 'Zlatan Ibrahimovic'.

This applies to sporting goods, beer and more, with anybody's use of the term 'Zlatan' in these contexts 'most likely being perceived as (relating to) Zlatan Ibrahimovic'.

4 Champions League record

His goal against Chelsea in PSG's 2-1 win on Tuesday was just his eighth in 37 Champions League knockout games - in the group stages the Sweden striker has found the net 38 times in 79 games.

5 Relationship with Guardiola

Ibrahimovic had a spectacular falling out with Pep Guardiola while at Barcelona and, in his autobiography, revealed he had laid into his former manager following a game at Villarreal. "I screamed at Guardiola. I screamed about his balls and how he'd be s*****g himself in front of (Jose) Mourinho, and you can imagine. It was war and it was me against him."

6 Arsenal trial

A move to Arsenal never materialised despite Ibrahimovic holding talks with Arsene Wenger and the Frenchman offering him a trial with the Gunners. "You can have a trial with us," he (Wenger) said. "You can give it a try". No matter how much I wanted to behave, those words set me off," Ibrahimovic wrote in his autobiography.

READING reached the FA Cup quarter-finals for just the fifth time in their history as they stunned West Brom to leave Albion fans turning on their team.

The Royals came from behind to win 3-1 against a poor Albion side who deserved to go out but there were worrying scenes at the final whistle when Chris Brunt appeared to be hit by something thrown from the visiting fans as he went to applaud them.

Albion fans were angry after defeat and Brunt had to be led away by Darren Fletcher as he was seen remonstrating with a group of supporters.

Former Albion defender Paul McShane cancelled out Fletcher's second-half opener before Chelsea loanee Michael Hector netted his first goal of the season. Lucas Piazon finished the game in stoppage time as the visitors pushed for a leveller.

West Brom boss Tony Pulis had insisted his side would take the Cup seriously but the head coach was let down by the quality of his side, who have won just twice in their last 11 games.

Pulis had also agreed with talk of scrapping FA Cup replays but would have gladly taken one as Saido Berahino and Fletcher missed late chances.

Reading, mid-table in the Sky Bet Championship, deserved their victory for taking what few chances they had and showing more endeavour.

A gritty start gave way to a scrappy game in which the Championship hosts easily contained their Barclays Premier League visitors.

McShane drilled wide from the edge of the box but it was a token gesture in a turgid match.

The hosts were the better side and while their goalkeeper watched on untroubled, his opposite number Ben Foster turned over Hal Robson-Kanu's header seven minutes before the break.

It was the only serious action of a first half devoid of excitement or quality and the second began in similar style with James McClean ballooning over.

But the Baggies broke the monotony with a rare moment of quality nine minutes after the break.

Rondon was allowed too much time inside the box to tee up Fletcher and the former Manchester United man advanced to drill a low angled drive past Ali Al Habsi from 15 yards.

Five minutes later Reading were level when McShane powered a six-yard header from Oliver Norwood's free kick after Jordan Obita had been fouled on the left.

The goalrush was out of keeping with the game which quickly slipped back into a wretched affair with the sides cancelling each other out.

But with 18 minutes left Hector, who joined Chelsea last summer before being loaned back, complet-



Reading's Paul McShane (left) celebrates scoring their first goal of the game



Leeds United's Scott Wootton (left) reacts after scoring an own-goal

ed Reading's turnaround. It was another sloppy goal to concede from West Brom as they allowed the midfielder to ghost in at the far post to head in Norwood's free kick.

Berahino and then Fletcher misused in front of goal with six minutes left and Reading added gloss

to the scoreline in stoppage time when, with Albion left open, substitute Piazon drilled in.

● A horror own goal by Leeds defender Scott Wootton gifted Watford a place

in the sixth round of the Emirates FA Cup.

Wootton, who started his career with Manchester United, shanked the ball into his own net as he attempted to divert the ball for a corner with 53 minutes gone.

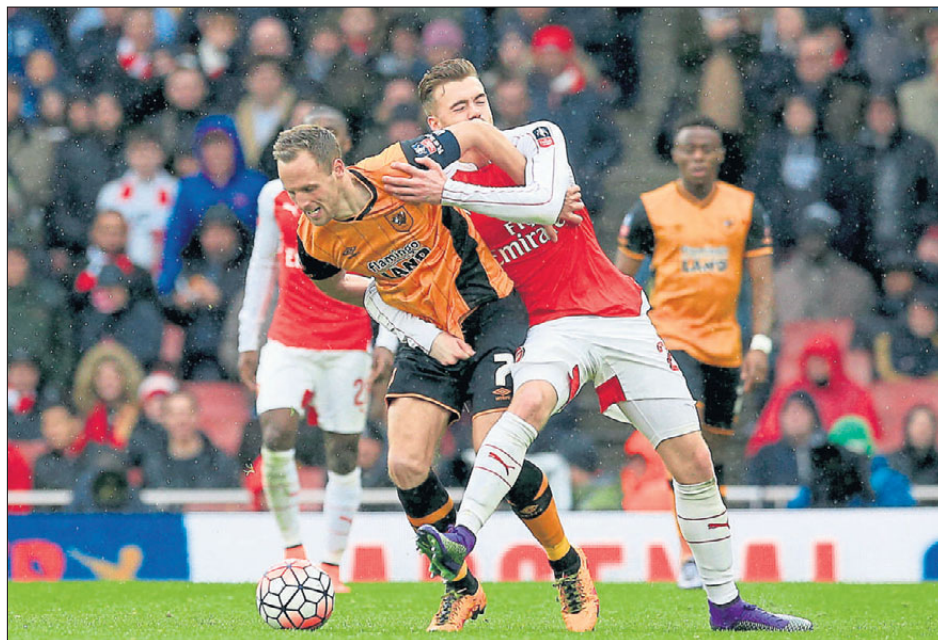
While Leeds pressed for an equal-

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o reach last eight



Reading's Lucas Piazon (right) scores their third goal of the game during the Emirates FA Cup fifth round match at the Madejski Stadium



Hull City's David Meyler and Arsenal's Calum Chambers (left) battle for the ball

iser to take the fifth-round tie to a replay, the Barclays Premier League side stood firm to earn their spot in the last eight for the first time since 2007.

Watford, whose successful return to the top flight has been overshadowed only by Leicester's heroics at the top of the table, made six

changes to the side that won at Crystal Palace last weekend.

Goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon started in place of Heurelho Gomes while Nordin Amrabat, the £7.5million arrival from Malaga, was given the daunting task of replacing top scorer Odion Ighalo who was rested. For the visitors, manager

Steve Evans made only one change with Sol Bamba coming in for the injured Liam Cooper.

Watford have steadied the ship following a slump in form over the festive period and predictably they started as the brighter of the two sides despite the gloomy conditions at Vicarage Road.

With less than a minute gone, Etienne Capoue crossed for Troy Deeney whose deflected header went narrowly wide of Marco Silvestri's post. Miguel Britos then wasted two good opportunities to give his side the lead, but his respective headers failed to test the Leeds' goalkeeper.

Watford had started on top, but without the potent Ighalo, lacked a cutting edge, and as the opening half wore on and the rain continued to fall it was the Championship side enjoying the best of the possession.

Indeed Evans could barely contain his anger when Stuart Dallas' cross-cum-shot was gobbled up by Pantilimon after a promising counter-attack led by Mirco Antenucci.

On the half-hour mark, Dallas almost redeemed himself, but dragged his left-footed effort wide following neat build-up play by Souleymane Doukara. And with the Elland Road outfit now beginning to take a stranglehold on the game, Dallas took centre stage shortly before the interval after cutting in from the right but again failing to find the target.

After the restart the hosts, who ended the first half on the backfoot, came flying out the blocks. First, Deeney bamboozled Bamba on the left-hand side before his effort was blocked. Then Craig Cathcart headed over from Watson's corner.

And with eight minutes gone of the second half, came Wootton's moment of madness. Watson fizzed a ball in from the right-hand side, but Silvestri failed to come and, in the confusion, Wootton's attempted clearance pinged off his own shin and nestled into the bottom corner.

In the closing moments, Leeds pushed for the equaliser, but despite five minutes of added time, and with the the visiting fans chanting "attack, attack, attack", it failed to materialise as Watford's fine season moved on to another level.

● FA Cup holders Arsenal will face a fifth-round replay at Championship promotion-chasers Hull after being held to a frustrating goalless draw at the Emirates Stadium.

The Gunners created a host of chances in a one-sided clash but were unable to make the breakthrough, with Hull goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic in outstanding form.

Jakupovic made a string of fine saves, including one fine fingertip on to the post from a Joel Campbell free-kick, while Arsenal also had two penalty appeals turned down.

Both sides made numerous changes - nine by Arsenal by 10 for Hull - indicating priorities lay elsewhere, but the teams were fully committed. In all Arsenal had 24 shots to their opponents' six as they continually pressed, but Hull's performance was one of great resilience.

Just where could Zlatan end up here?

Zlatan Ibrahimovic has hinted he would be open to a move to England in the summer when his contract expires at Paris St Germain.

Only a few clubs are likely to be able to afford his wages and here the Sports Pink looks at who he might play for - and one he almost certainly will not.

MANCHESTER UNITED: Ibrahimovic enjoyed a great relationship with Jose Mourinho at Inter Milan and should the ex-Chelsea boss replace Louis van Gaal it would be little surprise to see Ibrahimovic join him. The Sweden international has never hidden his admiration for his former boss, right down to his delight about receiving a text about his performance ahead of Mourinho's arrival in Milan. However, Champions League football, and its possible absence from Old Trafford next season, could be a consideration.

ARSENAL: The 34-year-old was close to joining the Gunners early in his career and held talks with Arsene Wenger, admitting he felt like a little boy when he was in the Frenchman's office. The Gunners definitely need a striker but his age would count against him with Arsenal cautious of signing over 30s.

CHELSEA: Any move would depend



Zlatan Ibrahimovic has hinted at a move to the Premier League.

on who takes charge at Stamford Bridge once Guus Hiddink leaves his temporary role at the end of the season. Ibrahimovic won the Serie A title at AC Milan with current Juventus boss Massimiliano Allegri, who has been linked with the Chelsea hot-seat. With Diego Costa having had peaks and troughs this season, and Falcao flopping, there could be room at the Bridge for a big character like Ibrahimovic. However, Ibrahimovic would almost certainly have to forego European football.

TOTTENHAM: Should Spurs win the Barclays Premier League they will be catapulted into another realm in terms of the players they can attract. It would be a surprise to see Ibrahimovic move to Spurs, going against their policy of signing young players.

MANCHESTER CITY: Ibrahimovic worked with Pep Guardiola at Barcelona but their relationship turned sour with the striker calling Guardiola 'a coward' in his autobiography. While at Barcelona, Even though City would be one of the few to afford his wages it is unlikely the pair will resolve their differences to work together again when Guardiola moves to the Etihad in the summer.

KP wouldn't be first dual nationality

KEVIN Pietersen's chances of resuming his international career with his native South Africa appear unlikely after Faf du Plessis pointed out the veteran batsman is 'English'.

The former Hampshire batsman has not played for England since the breakdown of his relationship with management, and subsequent sacking, following the 2013/14 whitewash Ashes defeat.

The England and Wales Cricket Board has spelled out on many occasions in the intervening two years that he would not be welcomed back.

That position remained abundantly clear when England chose their squad for next month's ICC World Twenty20, and coach Trevor Bayliss remarked that the possibility of including Pietersen had not even been discussed.

The record-breaking batsman, who has been in outstanding form in Twenty20 franchise cricket this winter, was born in Pietermaritzburg but left South Africa 16 years ago and made his Test debut at the start of England's historic 2005 Ashes-winning campaign.

His friend, and former England bowler, Darren Gough this week raised the possibility that Pietersen could play for South Africa - but that prospect received short shrift from Du Plessis.

South Africa's Twenty20 captain said:



Former Hampshire batsman Kevin Pietersen.

"KP is a player who's had a great career for England. But certainly, from a South African perspective...he's English."

Pietersen has made no public comment about any intention of qualifying for South Africa.

To do so, the 35-year-old need do nothing other than remain unwanted by his adopted national team until 2018.

If South Africa have any interest in him at that point, he could conceivably be playing for them at the age of 39 at the 2019 World Cup - which is to be held in England.

Should he do so, he will add his name to a list of just nine men so far to have represented more than one country in one-day internationals.

Here are Pietersen's bi-national predecessors:

Kepler Wessels (Australia and South Africa)

Clayton Lambert (West Indies and USA)

Anderson Cummins (West Indies and Canada)

Dougie Brown (England and Scotland)

Geraint Jones (England and Papua New Guinea)

Ed Joyce (England and Ireland)

Eoin Morgan (Ireland and England)

Boyd Rankin (Ireland and England)

Luke Ronchi (Australia and New Zealand)

Stellar names proliferate

THE stellar names in Spain's La Liga are dominating the scoring charts this term.

Luis Suarez is the leading marksman in the country with 23 goals in 22 matches.

He is currently leading Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo by two goals.

Ronaldo's Bernabeu colleague Karim Benzema is third with 19 goals in as many matches - 18 starts and one sub appearance.

Suarez's Nou Camp team-mate Neymar is the fourth highest scorer with 17 goals in 20 starts.

Lionel Messi is down in joint seventh place with 13 goals from 16 starts plus two off the bench.

Ex-Saints starlet Gareth Bale has a better goals per game record than the legendary Argentine in 2015/16.

Bale has also scored 13 La Liga goals, and his have come in only 14 starts plus one off the bench.

The controversial Suarez has remarkably belted 39 goals for Barca in all competitions this term.

That haul includes 19 in one 12-game purple patch from the end of October to the end of December.

Among the goals was a hat-trick in a 3-0 World Club Cup victory over Chinese club Guangzhou, and two more in the final - another 3-0 win, this time against River Plate.

Four more goals came in the recent 7-0 destruction of Gary Neville's Valencia in the Copa Del Ray (Spanish Cup).

Suarez's 23rd goal arrived last weekend, and was highly controversial to say the least.

With Barcelona leading Celta Vigo 3-1 at the Nou Camp, Messi stepped forward in the 81st minute to take a spot-kick.

Instead of shooting himself, he stunned the crowd by tapping the ball to the side for Suarez, who raced into the box and fired past bewildered goalkeeper Sergio Alvarez.

Messi has scored 25 goals in all competitions for Barca this season, from 29 appearances.

He plundered three of them in the 7-0 win over Valencia that made the back pages of some English national newspapers due to the Neville link.

As for Ronaldo, he has struck 32 goals in all competitions in 32 appearances.

An astonishing eight of them arrived in just two La Liga games against Espanyol.

Ronaldo struck five times in a 6-0 away win in August, and added three more in a copycat 6-0 home win at the end of January.

In between, he fired four goals in an 8-0 Champions League annihilation of Swedish club Malmö.

That was his second Champions League treble of the season. A few days after scoring five against Espanyol, the Portuguese struck three times in a 4-0 victory over Shakhtar.

Ronaldo will have to step up that



Luis Suarez is the leading marksman in La Liga so far.



Lionel Messi is for once not Barcelona's top scorer.

amazing goalscoring rate if he wants to repeat his 2014/15 goal total.

Last season, he struck 61 times in league and cup action for Madrid - a total including eight hat-tricks.

● Barcelona lead La Liga by three points from Atletico Madrid, with

Real Madrid a further point behind.

Barca have won 13 of their last 16 league games, drawing the other three.

During that time they have belted 50 goals, conceding just nine.

La Ligue

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is chasing his third French League Golden Boot in four seasons.

The Swedish international star is currently La Ligue's leading marksman with 21 goals - nine more than anyone else.

Ibrahimovic won the Golden Boot

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fic in La Liga again



Cristiano Ronaldo has again scored over 30 goals for Real Madrid this season.



Former Saints starlet Gareth Bale has an impressive goals to games ratio in La Liga this term.

in his first two seasons in Paris – hitting 30 goals in 2012/13 and 26 in 2013/14.

Last season he scored 19 times, and finished third – the list topped by Lyon's Alex Lacazatte with 27.

The player is also second in the assists table with eight – two behind his colleague, former Manchester

United winger Angel Di Maria.

Ibrahimovic has won the La Ligue title in each of his previous three seasons at the club, and is aiming for a fourth.

Paris SG had only ever won the French League championship twice in their history prior to his arrival, and the last of those times

was in 1994.

It is fair to say they are going to win the title again this term.

Remarkably, they are 24 points clear of Monaco having won 22 and drawn four of their 26 league games so far.

Safe to say there is none of the excitement that is being generated

in England and Spain from a close title race.

Bundesliga

Bayern Munich have won 18 of their 21 games so far, losing just once.

As a result, they are in pole position as they, like Paris SG, chase a fourth successive domestic league title.

Their lead is not as impressive as Paris SG's, though – just eight points over Borussia Dortmund.

Polish hot-shot Robert Lewandowski is the Bundesliga's leading marksman at the moment with 21 goals from 18 starts plus two off the bench.

One of those two sub appearances last autumn saw him make headlines around the world.

Coming on at half-time in a league game against Wolfsburg, Lewandowski blasted five goals in just nine incredible minutes.

He struck in the 51st, 52nd, 55th, 57th and the 60th minute – Bayern running out 5-1 winners.

That kickstarted a run of 12 goals in just four Bayern games, a run which included a Champions League triple against Dinamo Zagreb.

Lewandowski is currently just one goal ahead of Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

The Gabon star, who is being linked with a £60m summer switch to Manchester United, has netted 20 times in 20 Bundesliga outings.

The 26-year-old has netted 27 times in as many league and cup appearances in 2016/17, including a Europa League triple against Qabala.

Serie A

After 10 games of the Italian League season, Juventus had won only three times and were down in 11th place.

After winning their last 14 Serie A games, they are top.

Juve leapt into pole position for the first time this season after beating former table-toppers Napoli 1-0.

Juve left it late, scoring the only goal two minutes from time through Simone Zaza.

Zaza was linked with a host of Premier League clubs in the January transfer window, including Stoke, West Ham and Crystal Palace.

Top scorer so far is 13-goal Paulo Dybala, a £23m signing from Palermo last summer.

The Argentine is the joint second top scorer in the division.

Top, and by some considerable distance, is Napoli's Gonzalo Higuain.

He has belted 24 goals in 25 starts – the most by any player across Europe's main five divisions.

The Argentine cost £34m when he arrived from Real Madrid in the summer of 2013, and his goals have put Napoli in with a chance of a rare Serie A title. The club have only won the Italian League twice – in 1987 and 1990.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Monday, February 22
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Chelmsford v Bishops Stortford, Wealdstone v Hemel Hempstead.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Hungerford v Slough.

Tuesday, February 23
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Braintree v FC Halifax, Cheltenham v Gateshead, Grimsby v Woking, Guiseley v Forest Green, Torquay v Welling, Wrexham v Kidderminster.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Concord Rangers v Truro, Gosport Borough v Dartford, Havant & Waterlooville v Bath City, Maidenhead v Oxford City, Margate v Eastbourne Borough.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Chesham v Cambridge City, Cirencester v Paulton Rovers, Kettering v Dorchester, Leamington v Dunstable, Poole Town v Hitchin, Stratford v Merthyr Town.
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v Mangotsfield, Shortwood v AFC Totton, Swindon Supermarine v Taunton, Tiverton v Banbury (7.30), Wantage v Yate.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alresford v Fareham, Andover v Sholing, Bournemouth Poppies v Salisbury, Cowes Sports v Bemerton HH, Hamworthy Utd v Blackfield & Langley, Lymington Town v AFC Portchester.
Division One: Hythe & Dibden v Tadley Calleva, Laverstock & Ford v Andover NS, Romsey v Ringwood, Totton & Eling v Christchurch.
ISLE OF WIGHT GOLD CUP
East Cowes Vics v Cowes Sports.
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
Quarter-final: Brockenhurst v Hamble Club.

Wednesday, February 24
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division One South & West: Slimbridge v Bashley.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Folland Sports v Newport IoW.
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Pewsey Vale, Amesbury v Fleet Spurs.
NORTH HANTS SENIOR CUP
Whitchurch Utd v Overton Utd.

Thursday, February 25
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
Moneyfields v Hordean.

Saturday, February 27
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Barrow v Forest Green, Dover v Lincoln, Guiseley v Braintree, Kidderminster v Bromley, Macclesfield v Wrexham, Southport v Boreham Wood, Torquay v Altrincham, Welling v Aldershot, Chester v Tranmere.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Bishops Stortford v Truro, Dartford v Concord, Ebbsfleet v Hayes & Yeading, Gosport Borough v Oxford City, Havant & W v Maidstone, Hemel Hempstead v Bath City, Maidstone v Eastbourne B, St Albans v Whitehawk, Sutton v Margate, Wealdstone v Basingstoke, Weston v Chelmsford.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bedworth v Frome, Bideford v Chesham, Biggleswade v Weymouth, Chippenham v Stratford, Cirencester v Poole Town, Dorchester v St Neots, Dunstable v Merthyr, Histon v Kettering, Hungerford v Cambridge City, Leamington v Kings Lynn, Paulton Rovers v Slough, Redditch v Hitchin.
Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Slimbridge, Banbury v Winchester City, Didcot v Cinderford, Larkhall v North Leigh, Shortwood v Bashley, Swindon Supermarine v Bridgwater, Taunton v Evesham, Wantage v Mangotsfield, Wimborne v Bishops Cleeve, Yate v Marlow.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Andover Town, Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton HH, Cowes Sports v Folland Sports, Fareham Town v Lymington Town, Fawley AFC v Brockenhurst, Hordean v Sholing, Newport IoW v Bournemouth Poppies, Team Solent v Alresford, Verwood v Salisbury, Whitchurch v Moneyfields.
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Hythe & Dibden, Andover New Street v Tadley Calleva, Downton v Alton, New Milton v US Portsmouth, Pewsey Vale v Christchurch, Portland v Amesbury, Ringwood v Laverstock & Ford, Romsey v East Cowes Vics, Totton & Eling v Fleet Spurs.
HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Senior Division: Baffins Milton v Hamble Club, Bush Hill v Infinity, Colden Common v Stockbridge, Fleetlands v Clanfield, Liphook v Liss, Locks Heath v Headley, Overton v Hedge End, Paulsgrove v Otterbourne, Winchester Castle v QK Southampton.
Division One: AFC Petersfield v Broughton, Hayling Utd v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Lyndhurst v Sway, Upham v Netley Central.
Combination East: Headley Utd v Baffins Milton Rovers, Liss v AFC Petersfield.
Combination West: Hamble Club v Overton, Hedge End Rangers v QK Southampton, Otterbourne v Bush Hill.

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Mick Channon and his great friend, the late Alan Ball, in 1988.



Mick Channon at a butcher's shop in 1974. Well, why not?



Mick Channon and his former Saints boss Lawrie McMenemy.



Mick Channon in action v Fulham in October 1976.

Big interview with Mick Channon

Legend who took a different route

THERE are various routes a footballer can take at the end of his career.

Usually it leads to coaching, scouting or another one of the numerous roles in a football club, *writes PETER HOWARD.*

They do that, or they pursue a career in the media. They end up on the television chatting about the sport they used to play.

It's all very boring really.

But, it is what typically happens. It's like a tradition. You play football. You usually finish playing in your mid-thirties, and then you move into something relating to the game.

It's no surprise really. Most footballers are institutionalised in football. They enter an academy at a very young age and then go through the motions – if they're one of the lucky ones.

They play for the academy. They graduate and then move into the first-team. They play for the club and then retire, possibly with a few transfers thrown in too.

They then work in football, in some way, because it's what they know.

But this was not the case with the legendary Mick Channon. Saints' all-time top-scorer is a one off in that respect.

A very rare breed.

He scored 228 times for Saints, was capped 46 times and netted 21 times for England. He won the FA Cup with Saints in 1976.

It was a glittering football career that could have easily have led to joining the circuit of old timers telling their tales to the Prawn Sandwich Brigade. He could have gone from club to club regaling suite-going football fan types about his story.

It would have been a fairly cushy lifestyle.

But that wasn't what Channon pursued.

He can boast that he has been a roaring success, not in one sport, but two. It is very rare thing.

He still has an interest in his first love, with a set of season tickets at St Mary's. Usually they are occupied by his grandchildren.

Channon has only had time to see three or four Saints games this season.

That is no surprise considering he is running an academy. Not a football academy, but one for race horses.

If you weren't already aware, Channon is a hugely successful race horse trainer. He has nearly 150 horses at his West Ilsey Stables in the Berkshire Downs, just north of Newbury off the A34 – about an hour from his old stomping ground in Southampton.

He has to sandwich his football talk with his trainer responsibilities these days.

That's why I found myself sat at his office at West Ilsey, the stables The Queen sold to him 16 years ago.

It's just before 10am and Channon has already got his hands in a bag of sweets, rum-maging through a half-full bag of jelly beans.

He's been up since 5am working with the horses – it's a round-the-clock operation at West Ilsey.

The office is large. It's brightly lit, with three desks. As you walk in, to the left are sofas with



Mick Channon, right, with Brian O'Neil and Terry Paine in 1973.



Mick Channon fires in a shot for Saints at Stoke City.

a television on the wall. Sky Sports News is on.

To the right are two desks adjacent to each other and behind that is Channon's desk, at the back of the room.

There are stairways that lead off into the complex of buildings that make up part of the stables.

Above Channon's desk is a large black and white picture of him in his Saints playing days.

His desk is packed full of books and papers, with that day's edition of the Racing Post laid out just in front of him.

He closes it briefly to talk football, closing his mind from his horses just for a few moments.

We're there to talk about the FA Cup 1976 winning run. He's fitted me in during a small slot before he travels to Dubai later that day to see some of his horses in action.

A book of Saints' famous FA Cup run is laid down on the table and opened on the fifth round page, to trigger his memories.

He wants to get straight down to it, so we start talking about the hat-trick he scored in the fifth round replay 4-0 win over West Brom at The Dell.

We talk for half-an-hour about various things, mainly football. We go through stories he must have told to endless amounts of journalists.

Winning the FA Cup, the windmill celebration, playing at Wembley – all the things that he did during his glittering football career. It's nice to go over the successes of times gone by.

But Channon's worried about football. He's obviously submerged in his horse racing. That's his sport now. But he still loves the Saints.

GOT A VIEW ON SANTS? COMMENT ON



are out in force as Mick Channon officially opens a sports shop in his name in the 1970s

football in general is concerning. The cost of going to games, disparity between the wealth of clubs in the Premier League compared to the lower echelons. The FA Cup's increasingly less important status in the game. I'm worried that the ever-increasing amounts of money in the game will kill the game. I'm a f***** dinosaur, so no one will listen to me," he said in a Wiltshire twang. "But if you're not greedy, you usually end up f***** all. I honestly think football's going down that road. They're getting greedy. I love the players, because their

lifespan is only short. What I'm saying is the clubs are far too greedy.

"Look at it so we take care of the basics. Make sure the clubs aren't going to go bust. Make sure they've got a good academy and a good youth policy.

"So we're taking care of the sport, not in my lifetime but in 50/100 years time."

"That's the way I see it."

Channon says that he wants to see homegrown talent to continue to flow through Saints' academy and into the first-team.

Matt Targett and James Ward-Prowse are the latest academy graduates to come through and

play for Ronald Koeman's side.

But there has been unrest among some quarters of fans about the amount of foreign players and the lack of English talent currently playing for Saints.

It is something close to their hearts. The academy is something Saints fans are very proud of.

Koeman revealed earlier this season that he wasn't impressed with some of the current crop of players coming through the youth teams.

He felt that many are somehow from being Premier League standard.

Ward-Prowse has also confessed that it is tougher than ever for

youngsters to make it through into the first team.

Channon, who came through the academy himself, knows the issues all too well, and compares producing good footballers to trying to develop a top-class race horse.

The target, he says, is always to try and produce the next Matt Le Tissier.

Of course, an unbelievable player - but a race horse?

Channon understands the difficulties of continuously developing players or, in his case, horses.

"We all want to win. It's a bit like trying to find good footballers. That's what we're trying to do

Who's who in Formula 1?

RIO HARYANTO was the final name to be added to the 2016 Formula One roster after he was confirmed by Manor on Thursday.

The 23-year-old Indonesian will be one of three new faces on the grid this season following a winter of relative status quo.

Indeed eight of the 10 teams from last season have named an unchanged driver line-up for the new campaign - which gets under way in Melbourne on March 20 - with newcomers Haas joining as the 11th constructor.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at who will be racing where when the lights go out in Australia next month.

MERCEDES

Lewis Hamilton (GBR)

Nico Rosberg (GER)

Their fourth and potentially final season together at Mercedes with Rosberg out of contract at the end of the year. Hamilton has got the better of his German team-mate in all three seasons, with two of those yielding the world championship.

FERRARI

Sebastian Vettel (GER)

Kimi Raikkonen (FIN)

Vettel will be looking to lead Ferrari's championship challenge as he and Raikkonen form an unchanged line-up. Vettel won three races in his debut season with Ferrari while Raikkonen was surprisingly handed a one-year extension last summer.

WILLIAMS

Felipe Massa (BRA)

Valtteri Bottas (FIN)

Bottas was linked with Raikkonen's seat, but after Ferrari opted to retain the Finn, he decided to stay put.

Bottas and the heavily-experienced Massa will enter a third campaign together for Williams.

RED BULL

Daniel Ricciardo (AUS)

Daniil Kvyat (RUS)

The two Dans were evenly matched throughout much of last season, but Ricciardo, a three-time grand prix winner, will be keen to stamp his authority as the team's number one this season.



Lewis Hamilton

FORCE INDIA

Sergio Perez (MEX)

Nico Hulkenberg (GER)

Perez enjoyed a strong end to last season, but - despite interest from Renault - opted to stay with Force India. The Mexican and team-mate Hulkenberg, last year's Le Mans winner, will start their third season together.

RENAULT

Jolyon Palmer (GBR)

Kevin Magnussen (DEN)

Romain Grosjean, now of Haas, and Pastor Maldonado, now out of a job, have been replaced by the young, dynamic pairing of Palmer and Magnussen. Britain's Palmer, a former GP2 champion, is in his rookie campaign, while Magnussen has been handed a second chance after being dumped by McLaren.

TORO ROSSO

Max Verstappen (HOL)

Carlos Sainz (SPA)

Last year's all-rookie line-up will start their second season together at Toro Rosso. Verstappen, 18 last September, impressed in his debut campaign while team-mate Sainz, son of former rally champion Carlos Sainz, also showed glimpses of his potential.

SAUBER

Felipe Nasr (BRA)

Marcus Ericsson (SWE)

Nasr and Ericsson, who both bring a wealth of sponsorship, will join forces at Sauber once more in 2016. Nasr, now in his second campaign, will be looking to build on a relatively impressive rookie year.

McLAREN

Jenson Button (GBR)

Fernando Alonso (SPA)

On paper, one of the best driver line-ups in the paddock, but will Button and Alonso have the car to match this season?

McLaren, thwarted by their hapless Honda engine, endured a miserable campaign last season, but will the team have made enough progress over the winter to move back up the field?

MANOR

Pascal Wehrlein (GER)

Rio Haryanto (IDN)

The only all-rookie combination on the grid. Wehrlein is highly thought of by those at Mercedes, while team-mate Haryanto, the first Indonesian in F1, is reported to be paying £10million for his drive.

HAAS

Romain Grosjean (FRA)

Esteban Gutierrez (MEX)

American outfit Haas make their debut this season and will be led by the experienced Grosjean.

The Frenchman is joined by Gutierrez, who spent two seasons at Sauber.

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2016
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28 February
2016

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Competition number S06

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L Canty	Romsey, Hants	S Oldfield	Winchester, Hants
P Cunningham	Eastleigh, Hants	P Nott	Southampton, Hants
N Davis	Southampton, Hants	J Sell	Southampton, Hants
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An incident in an Eastleigh v Oxford match

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Daily Echo

Poole are in confident mood to defend Dorset Cup



Poole College. Back (from left): Dash Howarth, Sammy Glatzel, James Blake, Chris Browne, Tom Fisk, Dom Leaver-Smith. Front: Ben McKenzie, Ben Thompson, Louis Coppard, Harry Poole, Tom Smith.

POOLE Grammar's 3-1 win over Richard Taunton's before the half-term break has put the side in a confident move to

defend the Dorset Under-18 Schools Cup, which they won by beating Twynham 4-0 last season. They are already through to

this season's final after beating Hardyes 5-1, Corfe Hills 3-1 and Queen Elizabeth, Wimborne 3-1.

Romsey beat holders to set up tasty county final clash

ROMSEY are all set for a tasty Hampshire Schools' FA Under-16 Cup final showdown with Kings' of Winchester after ending Salesian College's vice-like grip on the trophy.

Triple finalists, Salesian had beaten Wildern in the past two junior age group finals, but Romsey wrested the silverware away from them with a 3-0 semi-final win on the Surrey Sports Park 3G surface at Guildford, writes Mike Vimpany.

Alex Haynes forced Romsey ahead, with the inspirational Lewis Waterfield doubling the score from 30 yards.

Cool heads

Navi Lakhpuri settled it from the penalty spot.

Romsey had needed cool heads from the penalty spot to get past Springhill in the previous round.

After a normal time stalemate, Kyle Payne, Markos Stewart, Levi Greenough and George Ockwell scored before Aaron Whitmarsh pulled off a smart save to take Romsey into the semi's.

Earlier in the competition, Romsey beat Fernhill 3-1 (Haynes 2, Greenough) after extra-time, Fort Hill 1-0 (Haynes) and Warblington (3-1).



Romsey School. Back (from left): Markos Stewart, George Ockwell, Mitchell Wheeler, Aaron Whitmarsh, Alex Robinson, Sam Tyas, Levi Greenough. Front: Lewis Waterfield, Kyle Payne, Morgan Callaway, Navi Lakhpuri, Regan Fellingham, Alex Haynes, Jamie Marshall.

Going for the title

PETER Symonds will all but mathematically seal the Hampshire Colleges championship if they beat Farnborough in a 'six-pointer' at Bereweke Avenue on Wednesday, 2pm.

The Winchester side is already seven points clear at the top and, with next week's match a double banker in terms of points, PSC could be celebrating if they win.

It could also be a dress rehearsal for the Peter Munro Cup final, with 58-goal Farnborough already through and PSC in the semi-final against Brockenhurst next month.

Richard Taunton need to beat Chichester if they are to keep Poole Grammar at bay in the race for the B Division crown.

Wednesday's fixtures - A Division: Barton Peveril v Brockenhurst, Peter Symonds v Farnborough, South Downs v Andover, Sparsholt v Queen Mary's.

B Division: Bournemouth v Portsmouth, Chichester v Richard Tauntons, Poole Grammar v Havant.

Delays

THE Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges Cup competitions have predictably been delayed by the wet weather, with only Farnborough so far certain of a place in the final.

They await the winners of next month's Peter Symonds-Brockenhurst tie to see who they will face in the Peter Munro Cup final, which has been pencilled in for March 23.

Both Second XI Cup semi-finals have still to be played, but table toppers Peter Symonds will be confident of winning their tie at South Downs and play either Andover or Itchen in the final.

Itchen will have either their third or fourth team in the 3rd XI Cup final and will meet the winners of the Barton Peveril-Farnborough tie.

In the Division 1C League Cup final, its Bat House of Fareham v Eastleigh or King Edward VI.

Sam in

HAMPSHIRE Colleges face Sussex in the English Schools FA Under-18 County League at Privett Park, Gosport, on Monday (4pm).

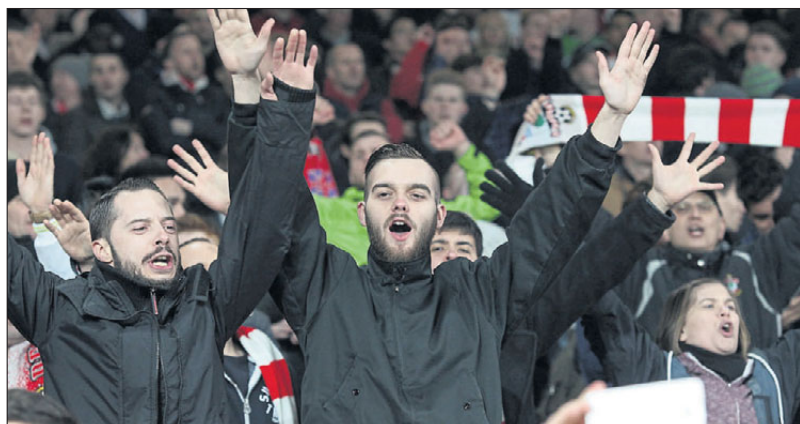
Sparsholt's Adam Grange and Itchen striker Sam Woodward, who have both been selected for the ESFA squad, are named in a 15-man squad.

Hampshire squad: Mukerjee (PSC), Sharp (Portsmouth), Smith (Barton Peveril), Clark (BP), Attrill (Itchen), Wilson (Itchen), Slade (Brock), Gain (RTC), Woodward (Itchen), Willis-Dellimore (Itchen), Pederson (Farnborough), Grange (Sparsholt), Wiseman (BP), Jukes (PSC), Randall (Brockenhurst).

Saints fans caught on camera in recent weeks



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British Universities Cup hockey



Kim Pullinger crosses for University of Southampton.



Action from the University derby at Wide Lane



Spectators at Wide Lane get a drenching.



The University's Hugh Phillips shoots against Solent University.



The University's Ed Blake (L) celebrates his goal.

Southampton Uni win hockey bragging rights in the rain!

SOUTHAMPTON University's hockey team will enjoy the bragging rights in the city's student social haunts after beating local rivals Solent in the British Universities Cup.

They nailed a Western Conference semi-final visit to Cardiff Medics on March 2 with a 4-1 win over Solent at rain lashed Wide Lane. The result wasn't entirely unexpected, writes *Mike Vimpany*.

The Wessex academics do, after all, play regularly as

a team in the Hampshire League – and have won their last three games, scoring 15 goals.

Solent, in comparison, don't play at weekends and are in the next division down in the BUCS Western Conference. The absence of Havant's Oli Nail and Channel Islander Matt Stokes also didn't help their cause.

Ed Blake twice conjured up goals for Alfonso Ramos and Liam Roper to give the Wessex students a 2-0 half-time lead.

Ramos, incidentally, isn't Spanish – he's a proud Scots-

man, studying Marine Biology!

Hugh Phillips arrowed a spectacular penalty corner drag flick into the top corner to make it 3-0.

Some curious umpiring decisions saw three Wessex players sin-binned in quick succession, none for anything seemingly other than trivial misdemeanours.

It was when Southampton were reduced to seven out-field players that Trojans' Dan Ferrier was able to celebrate his 20th birthday and get Solent on the scoresheet. But Blake scored a fourth.

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Solent's Dan Ferrier (centre) celebrates his goal.



Solent's Dan Ferrier (9) scores.



The University's Hugh Phillips (centre) celebrates his goal.



Solent's James Price (left) and Luke Sevier. Pictures by Chris Moorhouse.



Hugh Phillips celebrates his goal.



Scott Summers (left) and Josh Bishop.



Solent's James Price, red.



Ed Blake about to score. University of Southampton

Nik joins Chinese revolution

WEST Ham striker Nikica Jelavic became the latest Premier League player to join China's footballing revolution when he joined Beijing Renhe this week.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at players who have left England's top flight to head east:

NIKICA JELAVIC - The Croatian joined second division side Beijing Renhe for a fee believed to be of £2m. Jelavic signed for the Hammers last August from Hull, but only made one league start at Upton Park. Jelavic, who made his name with Glasgow Rangers, scored twice for Everton against Nigel Adkins' Saints in the 2012/13 season.

DEMBA BA - The former Chelsea striker joined Shanghai Shenhua last summer from Besiktas in Turkey. The 30-year-old signed a three-year deal worth a reported £11.3m and has made 11 appearances, scoring six goals in the Super League. Scored two goals on his Chelsea debut against Saints in the FA Cup at St Mary's in January 2013.

RAMIRES - The Brazilian midfielder completed his move to Jiangsu Suning from Chelsea for a reported fee of £25m in January. Ramires joined Chelsea in August 2010, but struggled to get game time under new boss Guus Hiddink.

GERVINHO - In January the former Arsenal striker joined Hebei China Fortune. The 28-year-old joined from Roma after a two-year spell with the Gunners from 2011 to 2013. He scored nine league goals for the Gunners in 46 appearances after joining for £10.5m from Little - including two in a 6-1 win against Saints in September 2012.

PAULINHO - Tottenham sold the 27-year-old midfielder to Guangzhou Evergrande last June in a four-year, £9.9m deal.

ASAMOAH GYAN - The former Sunderland striker last summer signed a two-year deal with Shanghai SIPG after leaving United Arab Emirates side Al Ain. The Ghanaian signed for Sunderland in 2010 and scored 10 times in 34 league appearances for the Black Cats.

MOHAMED SISSOKO - The former Liverpool midfielder moved to Chinese side Shanghai Shenhua last July after playing with Levante in Spain. The 30-year-old midfielder spent three years at Liverpool before joining Juventus.

EIDUR GUDJOHNSEN - The Iceland international joined Shijiazhuang Ever Bright last summer, signing from Championship side Bolton. The 37-year-old forward spent time in the Premier League with Chelsea, Tottenham, Stoke and Fulham.

SUN JIHAI - The former Manchester City defender joined Beijing Renhe in December. The 38-year-old started his career in China before returning home in 2009 after spells in England with the Sky Blues, Crystal Palace and Sheffield United.

GAEL KAKUTA - The winger joined Hebei China Fortune this month after just half a season with Sevilla. The 24-year-old spent six years at Chelsea but only made six league appearances for the club, instead being loaned out to six different clubs before leaving permanently for Sevilla last summer.

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Eoin: We're not short of top bowlers

EOIN Morgan is confident England have match-winning bowlers as well as batsmen in Twenty20 cricket.

It is easy, as Morgan's team begin to finalise plans for next month's ICC World Twenty20, to identify in their ranks a wealth of explosive batsmen who can turn any game.

It is perhaps also tempting to wonder, in the absence of Steven Finn as he continues his recovery from injury, whether their weakness may be with the ball.

Morgan does not see it like that, however.

In the much-improved Adil Rashid, and his spin partner Moeen Ali, together with the left-arm seam-and-swing variations provided by Hampshire newcomer Reece Topley and David Willey, the captain identifies options and potential rather than vulnerability.

There is also the possibility Hampshire's Liam Dawson - a shock selection in the 15-man World Cup squad - could feature with his slow bowling.

"I think this attack can win games for us," said the Irishman.

"With the spin department covered, and the two left-armers coming in and being a threat up front, it adds a huge dynamic to our game.

"A big strength is the fact we do bat



Hampshire seam bowler Reece Topley

deep. But with these strings to our bow (with the ball), it makes us a bigger threat."

All-rounder Ben Stokes is a critical component to balancing the team.

"Our best team at the moment, we're very close to selecting it or having a really good idea of what it is - which is good, considering we're a few weeks out from a 'World Cup'," said Morgan.

"Twenty20 is very funny in that regard - when momentum is with you, it can be very kind, but also if you're struggling to gain it, it can be brutal.

"If you're trying to turn round momentum, and gain wins, it's a terrible game.

"But if you have momentum with you, everything seems to click."

Morgan does not consider England to be among the World Twenty20 favourites, and he anticipates a tough challenge here against opponents who England will meet again in under a month's time, in the group stages in Mumbai.

"Starting at quite a high intensity and stamping our mark on these two games is quite a big thing," he added.

"They're playing at home, where they are a very strong side, and will be difficult to beat.

"If you get over the line, that goes a long way to keeping the momentum we do have and the feelgood attitude."

THERE is no shortage of Hampshire connections in the World T20 squads that have now all been announced ahead of next month's tournament in India.

James Vince, Liam Dawson and Reece Topley are the three current Hampshire players set to be involved but former stars like Shane Watson, Glenn Maxwell, Shahid Afridi, Kyle Abbott, Imran Tahir, Rangana Herath and even Neil McKenzie will also be in Bangladesh.

The tournament will see the winners of Group A (Bangladesh, Ireland, Netherlands, Oman) and Group B (Afghanistan, Scotland, Hong Kong and Zimbabwe) play for the right to join Groups Two and One respectively from March 8-13.

On March 15, the tournament will begin in earnest.

GROUP A

The nephew of former Hampshire player Andrew Murtagh is one of many hoping to pit his wits against Australia, India, Pakistan and New Zealand in Group Two of the World T20's Super 10 stage.

Middlesex seamer Tim Murtagh, whose uncle has recently written a biography on his former Hampshire teammate Barry Richards, is in the Ireland squad and likely to share the new ball with former England bowler Boyd Rankin.

The Ireland squad also includes the O'Brien brothers, both of whom have impressed against Hampshire in 50-over competition. Niall has hit two one-day centuries against Hampshire, for Northants and Leicestershire, while Kevin hit six sixes in a 75-ball 94 at the Ages Bowl in the 2009 Friends Provident Trophy - a competition Hampshire went on to win.

BANGLADESH: Mashrafe Mortaza (c), Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mohammad Mahmudullah, Nasir Hossain, Al-Amin Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Soumya Sarkar, Taskin Ahmed, Arafat Sunny, Mohammad Mithun, Mustafizur Rahman, Abu Hider, Nurul Hasan.

IRELAND: Will Porterfield (c), Andrew Balbirnie, George Dockrell, Andrew McBrine, Kevin O'Brien, Niall O'Brien, Tim Murtagh, Paul Stirling, Stuart Thompson, Gary Wilson, Craig Young Max Sorensen, Andrew Poynter, Stuart Poynter, Boyd Rankin.

NETHERLANDS: Wesley Barresi (c), Peter Borren, SJ Myburgh, Ben Cooper, Ahsan Malik, Vivian Kingma, Michael Rippon, LV van Beek, Midassar Bukhari, Roelof van der Merwe, Peter Seelaar, T van der Gugten, Max O'Dowd, Paul van Meekeren, Sikander Zulfiqar.

OMAN: Sultan Ahmed (c), Aamir Kaleem, Amir Ali, Munis Ansari, Jatinger Singh, Khawar Ali, Ajay Alcheta, Mehran Khan, Mohammad Naddem, Arun Poulouse,



James Vince, England Lions v Pakistan A.



Liam Dawson

Rajesh Ranpura, Sufyan Mehmood, Vaibhav Wategaonkar, Yousuf Mahmood, Zeeshan Maqsood, Zeeshan Siddiqui.

GROUP B

Two players with Hampshire connections were left out of squads that will be battling for the right to join England, South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka in Group One.

Former Lymington overseas star Craig Ervine, younger brother of

ceded it, and was a surprise omission when the WT20 squad was announced last week.

Hampshire seamer Brad Wheal was left out of the Scotland squad despite taking 3-20 for the Saltires against Hong Kong the previous week.

AFGHANISTAN: Asghar Stanikzai (c), Mohammad Shahzad, S Shenwari, Shafiqullah, Mohammad Nabi, Karim Sadiq, Hamid Hassan, Noor Ali Zadran, Najib Zadran, Dawlat Zadran, Mirwais Ashraf, Gulbadin Naib, Shapoor Zadran, Najeeb Taraki, Amir Hamza Hotak, Yamin Ahmadzai, Rashid Khan, Usman Ghani, Rokhan Braakzai.

HONG KONG: Tanwir Afzal (c), Mark Chapman, Haseeb Amjad, Nadeem Ahmed, Jamie Atkinson, Waqas Barkat, Kinchit Shah, Babar Hayat, Nizakat Khan, Aizaz Khan, Ryan Campbell, Christopher Carter, Waqas Khan, Anshuman Rath, Tanwir Ahmed.

SCOTLAND: Preston Mommsen (c), Kyle Coetzer, R Berrington, Matthew Cross, Alasdair Evans, Joshua Davey, Michael Leask, Matt Machan, Calum MacLeod, Robert Taylor, Safyaan Sharif, Con de Lange, Gavin Main, George Munsey, Mark Watt.

ZIMBABWE: H Masakadza (c), Tendai Chatara, E Chigumbura, Sikandar Butt, Sean Williams, T Panyangara, Tendai Chisoro, Graeme Cremer, Luke Jongwe, Neville Madziva, W Masakadza, Peter Moor, Richmond Mutumbami, Vusi Sibanda, Malcolm Waller, Donald Tiripano.

SUPER 10

GROUP 1

The surprise inclusion of Liam Dawson, alongside James Vince and Reece Topley, raises the prospect of England fielding three Hampshire players for the first time in nine years, since Kevin Pietersen, Dimi Mascarenhas and Chris Tremlett played against India during the inaugural World T20 tournament in South Africa in September 2007.

Vince was expected to make the cut following his man-of-the-series performance against Pakistan in Dubai in November.

Reece Topley, Hampshire's marquee signing from Essex towards the end of last season has given the county a taste of what to expect with some excellent spells with the white ball in South Africa.

There are plenty of other Hampshire connections in Group One.

Former Ages Bowl stars Kyle Abbott and Imran Tahir are in South Africa's 16 and only this week the Proteas confirmed Neil McKenzie, who helped Hampshire win their T20 titles of 2010 and 2012, as their batting coach for the tournament.

McKenzie's T20 nous will be invaluable for a South Africa side featuring David Miller, who Hampshire fans will remember threatened to deny them the 2012 domestic title with a 46-ball 72 not out in the final

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk - OR CONTACT SPORTS

n world stage

for Yorkshire.

ENGLAND: Eoin Morgan, Steven Finn, Moeen Ali, Jos Buttler, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Sam Billings, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, James Vince, David Willey, Reece Topley, Liam Dawson.

SOUTH AFRICA: Francois du Plessis (c), AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, David Miller, Dale Steyn, Quinton de Kock, JP Duminy, Farhaan Behardien, Imran Tahir, Aaron Phangiso, Kyle Abbott, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Chris Morris, David Wiese.

SRI LANKA: Lasith Malinga (capt), Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Niroshan Dickwella, Shehan Jayasuriya, Milinda Siriwardana, Dasun Shanaka, Chamara Kapugedera, Nuwan Kulasekara, Dushmantha Chameera, Thisara Perera, Sachithra Senanayake, Rangana Herath, Jeffrey Vandersay.

WEST INDIES: Darren Sammy (c) Chris Gayle, Keiron Pollard, Dwayne Bravo, Sunil Narine, Lendl Simmons, Andre Russell, Jenson Holder, Darren Bravo, Denesh Ramdin, Marlon Samuels, Samuel Badree, Sulaiman Benn, Andre Fletcher, Jerome Taylor.

* Plus the winners of Group B.

GROUP 2

As ever, Australia have no shortage of players with Hampshire connections in their squad.

Former Hampshire stars Shane Watson and Glenn Maxwell will both be involved and there is also a place in the party for Ashton Agar, who was part of the Ageas Bowl's Elite International Academy in late three years ago.

Watson, who will be 35 in June, is probably playing in his last World Cup ahead of a likely return to Hampshire in the next few years.

Maxwell, meanwhile has blossomed into a global superstar since arriving in Hampshire to play a few games for South Wilts four years ago.

Hampshire signed him for the 2012 tournament and after two incredible knocks at Kent and Essex, the rest is history.

Maxwell has gone on to great things. A key player with bat and ball, he has played 62 one-day and 27 T20 internationals.

Batting at number 11 on his Test debut against England during the 2013 Ashes series at Trent Bridge, Agar famously scored 98 – the highest ever Test score by a number 11 – in a 163-run last-wicket stand with the late Phillip Hughes.

Former Hampshire all-rounder Shahid Afridi, who starred for the county during the 2011 tournament, will captain Pakistan.

AUSTRALIA: Steven Smith (c), Shane Watson, David Warner, Aaron Finch, James Faulkner, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Marsh, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Coulter-Nile, John Hastings, Josh Hazlewood, Andrew Tye, Adam Zampa, Peter



Reece Topley in ODI action for England v South Africa.



Glenn Maxwell.

Nevill, Ashton Agar.

INDIA: MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Suresh Raina, Shikhar Dhawan, Yuvraj Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravi Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Harbhajan Singh, Mohammed Shami, Ashish Nehra, Hardik Pandya, Pawan Negi.

PAKISTAN: Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Umar Akmal, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Mohammad Irfan, Wahab Riaz, Anwar

Ali, Babar Azam, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khuram Manzoor, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz, Rumman Raees.

NEW ZEALAND: Kane Williamson, Ross Taylor, Martin Guptill, CJ Anderson, MJ McClenaghan, Nathan McCullum, Luke Ronchi, Tim Southee, Trent Boult, Colin Munro, Adam Milne, Grant Elliott, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi.

* Plus the winners of Group A.

Hales: We've made sloppy mistakes - but now we can go on and conquer the world!

ALEX Hales believes England can become Twenty20 world-beaters in India, as long as they stick to what they do best.

Hales' brilliant white-ball form was not enough to avoid an agonising 3-2 one-day international series defeat to South Africa, after the hosts recovered from 2-0 down over the past week.

England were bowled out, despite Hales' century, in only 45 overs of last weekend's Cape Town decider and were then unsurprisingly unable to defend 236.

After that chastening outcome, some will doubtless call for Eoin Morgan's limited-overs team to temper their adventure when conditions dictate - as they did, perhaps, on a taxing surface at Newlands.

Hales insists it will be folly, though, to stray away from the attacking intent which has served England so well in their dramatic white-ball improvement since an embarrassingly early exit from last year's World Cup.

Rough with smooth

"The way we've played in the last year, we're going to have to take the rough with the smooth," said the opener, who capped a remarkable sequence of five successive fifties through the ODI series with his second century in that format.

"Sometimes, we are going to make sloppy mistakes like we did but I still think we've done some pretty good stuff over the last year, and we've got to stick to our basics.

"If you look at the guys you've got in your squad, it's everyone's natural game to play that way.

"Sometimes we are going to make mistakes and people will point fingers - but we've still got to stay true to ourselves."

After two Twenty20s against South Africa on February 19 and 21, England will head home briefly before flying to Mumbai for the start of the ICC World Twenty20 early next month.

It is there that they will be tested and judged most sternly, and Hales is optimistic.

Asked if Morgan's team can win only the second global trophy in England's history, he said: "I don't see why not."

"It's definitely the best side I've been involved with in Twenty20, with a hell of a lot of young ball-strikers and a good bowling attack as well.

"I think it's a really exciting time with the talent and firepower we have in our squad, people who can hit sixes all the

way down to number 11.

"I think we've got a good chance."

Hales' ODI series aggregate of 383 runs at 76.60, on his return to his favoured limited-overs formats, followed a paltry output in his maiden Test series here.

The 27-year-old added: "I was disappointed not to score anywhere near the number of runs I'd have liked (in the Tests).

"It was obviously my first ever appearance in a Test shirt, coming into tough conditions to open the batting against one of the best bowling attacks in the world."

England's search for a successful opening partner for Test captain Alastair Cook could conceivably move on yet again for the first series of the summer, against Sri Lanka in May.

Hales said: "I hope they stick with me a bit.

"I'd love to get another crack at it and show people I can play."

He will do things differently if he is, as seems likely, granted a second chance.

"It was as tough as I thought it was going to be," he said.

"I didn't feel out of my depth at all. I guess I kept getting myself out, soft dismissals, mainly outside off stump.

"It's something I'll have to go away and work on ... and I do feel ready for the challenge."

He, like England, must play to his strengths - whatever colour the ball.

Caught in two minds

"I think maybe I got caught in two minds, whether to attack or defend, and that was probably my downfall," he said.

"I still think what I did leading into the series was right, working on leaving well.

"I was just disappointed I went away from my gameplan a little bit during the Tests."

Before then, of course, Hales will be in his more accustomed role as England try to extend a six-match Twenty20 winning streak - stretching back to September 2014, and including a 3-0 series success over Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

He has already banked a Twenty20 hundred, against Sri Lanka in Chittagong in the previous global tournament two years ago, and senses he just might be able to double up soon.

"I feel in good enough touch," he said.

"The pitches we play on out here should lead to some high-scoring games so if I get myself in, I hope I can go big."



Alex Hales plays a bouncer during the recent ODI series in South Africa.

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Saints Foundation is an independent charity aligned to Southampton Football Club. Harnessing the passion of the Club and its fans we aim to **INSPIRE, SUPPORT and DELIVER** positive change and equality of opportunity for young people and vulnerable adults across Southampton and surrounding areas. We work across six key themes: Youth Inclusion, Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing, Education, Schools & Enterprise and Football & Sports Development.

Across all of our programmes, the Saints Foundation now engages with thousands of young people and vulnerable adults each year, and in so doing invests over £1.5 million into local communities within Southampton and the surrounding area. These funds are generated through grants, sponsorship, coaching income, and the never-ceasing support of a huge number of individuals and businesses within our local community. Greg Baker, Head of Saints Foundation and Community Partnerships. 'Southampton



Football Club embraces its role within the community and is committed to ensuring the power of football can have a lasting impact. The Saints Foundation is an independent charity but uses the branding of Southampton Football Club, and sport in general, as a tool of engagement. The Foundation delivers a wide spectrum of programmes from working with isolated older people, young people and adults with disabilities and the most challenging of young people at risk of school exclusion. The Charity embraces the local community and caters to the needs of Southampton residents requiring additional support.'

Senior Saints

Senior Saints is our first ever programme that specifically works with isolated older people over the age of 65, many of whom do not have family members or friends to rely on. With sessions delivered within local community settings at venues across Southampton, as well as at St Mary's Stadium, Senior Saints has three key focuses: a core stability exercise programme that reduces the risk of falls in older people, reminiscence groups that use football and sport as a vehicle to tackle early signs of dementia and loss of memory amongst older people and an activity programme that



offers a wide variety of social and physical activities, or sometimes just a chance to have a chat and a piece of cake!

Saints4Sport

Delivered in partnership with the Society of St James, the Saint4Sport project works with adults who have faced some of life's biggest challenges, including homelessness, mental health issues or substance and alcohol misuse. Working with over 400 participants per year, the project offers a structured timetable of activity – including football, golf, fishing and gym sessions – to help put routine and purpose back into participant's lives, whilst offering accredited outcomes, volunteering, work experience and long-term employment opportunities.

SaintsAbility

SaintsAbility offers regular football development sessions for young people and adults with physical and cognitive impairments. School based activities are complemented by weekend and evening sessions, delivered at venues across the region. Adult and junior players regularly take part in football festivals, which have seen teams representing Southampton FC in local, regional and international tournaments. As an extension of the SaintsAbility programme, Saints Foundation launched the SaintsAbility + in September 2014.



Funded by the Premier League and the PFA, SaintsAbility + offers young people and adults with physical and cognitive impairments the chance to part in alternative activity, including rock climbing, sailing, fishing and horse riding. The programme aims to create positive outcomes with regards to improved self confidence and self-esteem, and an improvement in sequencing skills that are transferable to everyday life.

Saints Connect

Saints Connect is a referral based project, targeting young men and women aged 11-16 across Southampton. Working with schools, PRUs, a secure children's home and other relevant agencies, Saints Foundation engages with young people on a reduced timetable or who have been identified as being in need of additional support. The project provides young people with the opportunity to engage in sport, music and art and to achieve accredited outcomes. The project also works in deprived neighbourhoods of the city, engaging with targeted groups, including young people from BAME communities.



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England's ODI squad: Who was hot - or not - in the 3-2 series loss to South Africa

ENGLAND suffered a five-wicket defeat to South Africa in the deciding one-day international in Cape Town last weekend to lose the series 3-2 - having led 2-0.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how the England players performed during the series.

JASON ROY - The Surrey man began the series well enough with a brief display of his obvious potential to set England on the way to almost 400 in Bloemfontein. But the opener tailed off badly. Could Hampshire's James Vince now be in a position to force his way in? 4/10

ALEX HALES - Pushed 400 runs in five matches including a century in the fifth ODI, so has to be considered England's outstanding player.

The Nottinghamshire man became the first from his country to make successive 50s in a five-match series, a run of form against his still-favoured white ball which was an impressive response to his Test travails. 9

JOE ROOT - Root was prolific too, with back-to-back centuries in losing causes. His resourcefulness to achieve the right limited-overs tempo - despite his relative lack of power - is especially admirable. 9

EOIN MORGAN - The captain lost form in sync with his team.

Three successive single-figure scores to end the series were perhaps a concern, with the ICC World Twenty20 looming.

But Morgan's batting is often at its best after a break, and he will have one to freshen up after the two Twenty20s here.

His leadership, albeit in a sudden run of defeats, is convincing. 4

BEN STOKES - Two powerful 50s and some threat with his pace bowling were a satisfactory output from one of England's most likely match-winners.

He could not turn the tide when it mattered, though, and began the collapse in Cape Town. 6

JOS BUTTLER - An ordinary rating does not reflect an ordinary series, but one of extremes.

Buttler began brilliantly, with his second consecutive ODI hundred and another match-clinching innings as England almost made 400. But what followed, especially in front of the stumps, was a whimper - with one run in his last three attempts. 7

MOEEN ALI - He could not come up with runs down the order, when England badly needed them, and his bowling returns were mostly regressive too. 4

CHRIS JORDAN - His all-round skills will always present a persuasive case for white-ball selection.

But the quandary is whether Jordan's bowling is reliable enough to make a compelling case for inclusion alongside his big-hitting and the brilliant catching he demonstrated again to see off AB de Villiers in England's Port Elizabeth win.

ADIL RASHID - The leg-spinner's improvement via his impressive stint at the Big Bash is a big tick for management under Andrew Strauss' directorship.

Rashid is growing with confidence, and even some of the best struggle to pick his googly.

With the bat, his natural wristiness is in danger of developing a bottom-hand fixation, and he has to lose at least a mark for the dropped catch which allowed Chris Morris to pull off a series-levelling win at the Wanderers. 7

DAVID WILLEY - Unless it swings, his wicket-taking threat is not obvious.

Willey bowled acceptably, and had little opportunity to launch any big hits with the bat.

With the series in the balance, England explored other options - perhaps partly to rest Willey for a hectic Twenty20 programme to come. 5

REECE TOPLEY - England's most consistent seamer, the young left-armer has established himself quickly in international white-ball cricket and his two-in-two with the new ball at Newlands gave England a brief opportunity.

He ended the series with ten wickets, making him the leading wicket-taker on either side.

Topley - who will make his Hampshire debut in 2016 after having left Essex at the end of last season - is an increasingly rare, proper number 11, and when Steven Finn is back, England will therefore have a tail again. 8

CHRIS WOAKES - One promising match and one poor one from England's World Twenty20 discard could not help stave off the South Africa comeback. 6

STUART BROAD - Broad still has ODI ambitions, with a World Cup on home soil in the foreseeable future.

On the latest evidence to hand, the jury is still out on his chances. 6



Reece Topley, left, celebrates a wicket in the South Africa series.

Hales: I hope En



Hampshire's Michael Carberry outscored Alistair Cook in the 2013/14 Ashes series.

ALEX HALES is confident he can adapt successfully in all formats, despite struggling in his first Test series as Alastair Cook's opening partner.

Hales, meanwhile, must work out why he was unable to make more than 136 runs at an average of 17 in his maiden Test series in South Africa.

Yet he then passed 50 in all five ODIs - including a 99 and culminating with a century at Newlands.

He said: "I was disappointed not to score anywhere near the number of runs I'd have liked (in the Tests)."

"I hope they stick with me a bit. "I'd love to get another crack at it and show people I can play."

He will do things differently if he is, as seems likely, granted a second chance initially against Sri Lanka early this summer.

"I didn't feel out of my depth at all," he said. "I guess I kept getting myself out, soft dismissals, mainly outside off stump."

"It's something I'll have to go away and work on ... and I do feel ready for the challenge."

"I think maybe I got caught in two minds, whether to attack or defend, and that was probably my downfall."

"I was just disappointed I went away from my gameplan a little bit during the Tests."

Since Andrew Strauss retired at the end of the 2012 season, Cook has had nine opening partners in 41 Tests.



Alex Hales is hopeful he will get the chance to remain as a Test opener.

This is how they compare.

Nick Compton - 479 runs at 31.9 (nine matches)

The grandson of the great Denis was the first to try and fill Strauss's shoes and got off to a solid start, scoring 208 at 34.7 in his first Test series in India.

But after scoring back-to-back

hundreds in the first two Tests in New Zealand three years ago, he was dropped after finishing the series with 54 runs from his last six innings.

Compton was recalled to the Test arena for the recent series in South Africa, but did not open. He scored 85, 49 and 45 in his first three innings against the Proteas, but then only managed a top score of 26

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England stick with me



Middlesex's Sam Robson replaced Michael Carberry at the top of the England Test order.



Joe Root has the best record of all the batsman who have partnered Cook since Strauss' retirement.

from his last five innings.

Joe Root - 321 runs at 45.9 (four)

Now the world's No1 batsman, the Yorkshireman's Test career was only six matches old when he was thrust into the role for the 2013 Ashes series.

Root's record is the best of the nine players to have taken on

the task but he scored more than half his runs as an opener when he made 180 in the second Test at Lord's, where victory by 347 runs put England 1-0 up in a series they won 3-0.

Michael Carberry - 281 at 28.1 (five)

The Hampshire batsman out-

scored Alastair Cook during his only Test series - but was still dropped.

Carberry had only played one Test - and that against Bangladesh - before being thrust into the cauldron of the 2013/14 Ashes series.

He scored at least 38 in each of the five Tests, but only reached one half century and was unfairly criticised for scoring his runs too

slowly against a fearsome Aussie attack led by Mitchell Johnson.

Only Carberry's former Ageas Bowl colleague Kevin Pietersen (294 at 29.4) scored more runs for the tourists during what was also his last series, while Cook returned home with 246 at 24.6 as England were 'whitewashed' 5-0.

Sam Robson - 336 at 30.5 (seven)

When Carberry was dropped, England decided to give youth a chance in the form of the 24 year-old Australia-born Middlesex batsman, who had scored 1180 runs at 47.2 in the County Championship's first division the previous season.

He scored 127 against Sri Lanka in his second Test and 59 against India in his third, but was dropped after averaging just 17 in the last four Tests of the summer.

He was restricted to a modest 891 at 30.7 in the Championship last season.

Jonathan Trott - 72 at 12 (three)

Seventeen months after returning home with a stress-related illness after one Test of the 2013-14 series against Australia, Trott returned to the England side to have a go at filling the void at the top of the order, only to be out for three ducks in six innings in the West Indies, still affected by his anxiety problems.

Adam Lyth - 265 at 20.4 (seven)

The Yorkshireman began well, making 107 against New Zealand in his second Test, after earning his chance with 2,098 County Championship runs at 52.4 as Yorkshire won the 2014 title. But he had a woe-ful time of it during the main series of 2015 against Australia, making 115 runs at just 12.8 per innings.

Moeen Ali - 73 at 14.6 (three)

The Worcestershire star began the winter by being shunted up to the top of the order, but was back at No 8 for the recent series against South Africa after failing to pass 35 in three matches against Pakistan in the UAE.

He also partnered Jos Buttler in the final innings of the third Test, following Cook's 263, but the pair only managed 15 between them.

Alex Hales - 136 at 19.4 (four)

It was hoped that the Nottinghamshire star would transfer his white-ball form to the Test arena when he was given the chance to partner Cook in South Africa.

But like so many before him, he failed to take his opportunity.

His 60 in the drawn second Test in Cape Town was as good as it got for the 27 year-old right-hander.

But he responded in style, hitting at least 50 in every innings in amassing 383 runs at 76.6 in the five-match ODI series that fol-

Cheltenham will sadly miss this lot

WITH the shock news Faugheen has suffered an injury and will not defend his Champion Hurdle crown at Cheltenham, we look at five other big names with genuine Festival hopes to have been ruled out of the showpiece meeting so far:

1. CONEYGREE, Gold Cup (Mark Bradstock)

Became the first novice since Captain Christy in 1974 to win the Gold Cup and enjoyed the perfect comeback with a Sandown stroll in November. But just when the big question was would he go for the King George, the racing world was rocked when it emerged he had suffered a hock injury that would keep him out for the season.

2. KILLULTAGH VIC, JLT Novices' Chase (Willie Mullins)

Conqueror of World Hurdle hotpot Thistlecrack at Punchestown in April, Killultagh Vic had won both his starts since switching to fences, most recently benefiting from a remarkable Ruby Walsh recovery after a bad blunder to claim a Grade Two contest at Leopardstown last month. Killultagh Vic would have been bidding for a second consecutive Cheltenham victory, having won the Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle last year in the hands of Luke Dempsey.



Faugheen and jockey Ruby Walsh in the parade ring.

3. AR MAD, Arkle Trophy (Gary Moore)

If any horse was going to serve it up to hotpot Douvan, it looked like this bold-jumping six-year-old would be the one. Bagged a Grade One at Sandown in December and took the scalp of Vaniteux at Christmas, before passing a 'left-handed' test at Plumpton in style on Monday - just hours before being found to be lame.

4. SIMONSIG, Queen Mother Champion Chase/Ryanair Chase (Nicky Henderson)

Twice a winner at the Festival, the dashing grey was sidelined after winning the 2013 Arkle until running a super race over hurdles at Aintree in November.

That should have put him right for the Tingle Creek Chase in December, but he was a late defector with a splint problem and connections have now conceded defeat in the battle to make Cheltenham.

5. JEZKI, World Hurdle (Jessica Harrington)

Won the Champion Hurdle in 2014 and was starting to look a real force in the staying hurdle division last spring, winning at Aintree and Punchestown, beating Hurricane Fly.

But a problem was discovered in September, with heat in a leg, and the decision was made he would not return for this campaign.

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SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Cup Fifth Round

AFC Bournemouth	L	Everton	L
HT L-L			
Arsenal	0	Hull	0
HT 0-0			
Vokes 27 pen			
Artfield 86			
Reading	3	W.B.A.	
McShane 59			
Hector 72			
Piazon 90			
HT 0-0			
Watford	1	Leeds Utd.	0
Wootton 53 og			
HT 0-0			

SkyBet Championship

Bolton	1	Q.P.R.	1
Clough 68			
HT 0-0			
Brentford	1	Derby City	3
Judge 52			
HT 0-0			
Burnley	2	Rotherham	0
Vokes 27 pen			
Artfield 86			
HT 1-0			

Cardiff	4	Brighton	1
Whittingham 16,66 pen			
Pikington 19			
HT 3-0			
Fulham	3	Charlton	0
Cairney 32,78			
Madi 59			
HT 1-0			
Huddersfld.	1	Wolves	0
Wells 78			
HT 0-0			
M K Dons	0	Bristol C	2
Garner 73			
HT 0-0			
Preston	1	Sheff Wed.	0
Garner 73			
HT 0-0			

	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	P W D L F A	Pt
Hull	31 11 3 1 30	6 7 3 6 17 13	60
Burnley	32 11 3 2 32	12 5 8 3 18 14	59
Middlesbro	30 10 3 2 21	4 7 4 4 18 12	58
Brighton	32 11 3 2 33	15 4 10 2 18 19	57
Derby City	32 7 6 3 24	13 7 6 3 19 15	54
Sheff Wed	32 10 5 1 32	13 4 6 6 17 21	53
Cardiff	32 8 7 1 25	14 4 6 6 17 20	49
Birmingham	31 7 2 6 17	16 6 7 3 21 14	48
Ipswich	31 6 6 3 20	16 7 3 6 20 23	48
Preston	32 6 6 4 15	14 5 6 5 15 15	45
Nottm For	31 6 6 4 20	14 4 6 5 11 13	42
Q.P.R.	32 5 8 3 24	20 4 5 7 14 19	40
Wolves	32 4 6 6 20	23 6 4 6 20 40	40
Brentford	32 6 3 7 20	24 5 4 7 23 27	40
Huddersfld	32 6 4 6 25	19 4 3 8 18 25	38
Reading	31 6 7 3 17	10 4 3 9 16 23	37
Leeds Utd	31 4 6 6 12	16 4 7 4 17 18	37
Fulham	32 5 5 6 27	24 3 6 7 23 29	35
Blackburn	30 4 7 4 15	11 3 6 6 13 16	34
Bristol C	32 4 6 6 17	23 4 4 8 12 25	34
M K Dons	32 6 2 8 14	22 2 5 9 11 22	31
Rotherham	32 5 3 8 22	27 2 2 12 14 30	26
Bolton	32 4 9 3 18	17 0 4 12 13 36	25
Charlton	32 3 7 6 15	23 2 3 11 11 36	25

SkyBet League One

Barnsley	1	Doncaster	0
Fletcher 81			
HT 0-0			
Bradford	2	Rochdale	2
McArdle 40			
Davies 62			
HT 1-1			
Bury	5	Colchester	2
Lowe 34			
Tutte 51,51,62			
Jones 56			
HT 1-2			
Chesterfld	3	Crewe	0
Ebanks-Blake 7			
Novak 12			
Dimaio 56			
HT 2-1			
Fleetwood Town	2	Scunthorpe	1
Hunter 16			
Grant 29			
HT 2-0			
Millwall	3	Peterboro	0
Morison 30,62			
Gregory 49			
HT 1-0			
Oldham	2	Gillingham	1
Dieng 57			
Fort 73			
HT 0-1			
Sheff Utd	1	Port Vale	0
Sharp 50			
HT 0-0			
Swindon	3	Blackpool	2
Ajose 17,61,88			
HT 1-1			
Walsall	1	Wigan	2
Mantom 68			
HT 0-1			

	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	P W D L F A	Pt
Burton Albion	30 11 3 2 26	12 9 0 5 15 12	63
Wigan	32 9 5 2 27	11 7 6 3 25 19	59
Gillingham	32 12 3 1 33	13 5 4 7 25 26	58
Walsall	31 7 4 5 21	19 9 5 1 28 14	57
Millwall	32 7 2 7 21	21 9 3 4 30 19	53
Coventry	31 9 5 2 34	18 5 5 5 21 15	52
Sheff Utd	32 8 2 6 29	24 5 7 4 18 18	48
Bradford	31 7 5 3 18	13 6 4 6 19 21	48
Southend	31 8 2 5 20	17 5 6 5 21 21	47
Barnsley	31 8 2 6 27	17 6 1 8 23 27	45
Port Vale	33 8 7 1 23	13 4 2 11 12 24	45
Peterboro	31 6 4 5 26	24 7 1 8 28 24	44
Scunthorpe	31 7 3 5 14	12 6 2 8 23 27	44
Bury	31 7 5 3 26	20 5 2 9 16 31	43
Swindon	32 7 2 7 29	28 5 4 7 20 22	42
Rochdale	31 7 3 5 23	19 3 6 7 18 25	39
Doncaster	31 5 5 6 20	18 4 4 7 15 23	36
Blackpool	32 7 4 6 19	16 2 3 10 13 25	34
Chesterfld	32 4 3 9 26	28 6 1 9 16 24	34
Fleetwood Tn	30 6 5 4 24	13 2 4 9 12 25	33
HT 0-0			
St Mirren	3 3 2 10 16	23 6 4 6 21 28	33
Oldham	30 2 4 9 16	29 3 10 2 13 12	29
Crewe	32 3 5 8 16	29 3 5 8 18 27	28
Colchester	32 3 6 7 23	30 2 2 12 17 48	23

SkyBet League Two

Barnet	1	AFC Wimbledon	2
Stevens 87			
HT 0-0			
Bristol R	2	Morecambe	1
Gaffney 68			
Bodin 78			
HT 0-1			
Cambridge	3	York	1
Spencer 10			
Coulson 27			
Williamson 60			
HT 2-1			
Carlisle	1	Stevenage	0
Ibreh 59			
HT 0-0			
Crawley	1	Plymouth	1
Fenelon 83			
HT 0-0			
Exeter	1	Newport County	1
Tilson 51			
HT 0-0			
Luton	2	Hartlepool	1
McGeehan 60 pen			
Mackail-Smith 86			
HT 0-0			
Mansfield	3	Dagenham	2
Blair 54			
Yussuf 67			
Green 84			
HT 0-1			
Northmptn	1	Wycombe	0
Rose 63			
HT 0-0			
Notts Cnty	0	Leyton O	0
HT 0-0			
Oxford Utd.	1	Acc Stanley	2
Maguire 29			
HT 1-0			
Yeovil	1	POMPEY	1
Zoko 73			
HT 0-0			

	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	P W D L F A	Pt
Northmptn	31 12 1 3 27	12 10 3 2 30 19	70
Plymouth	31 9 2 5 25	16 9 4 2 22 11	60
Oxford Utd	31 6 6 4 21	15 9 4 2 28 11	55
Acc Stanley	29 7 4 2 27	18 8 3 5 23 16	52
Mansfield	33 6 6 5 25	21 8 3 5 21 18	51
Bristol R	31 7 2 6 20	16 8 3 5 22 17	50
POMPEY	30 6 7 3 27	10 6 6 2 22 17	49
Wycombe	31 6 4 6 20	20 8 3 4 16 10	49
Leyton O	32 7 4 5 25	23 6 4 2 22 49	48
Wimbledon	30 6 3 6 23	21 7 6 2 25 16	48
Cambridge	32 7 3 6 24	25 6 5 5 23 19	47
Carlisle	29 8 4 3 28	20 4 6 4 19 22	46
Luton	32 4 5 7 20	23 7 3 6 25 23	41
Exeter	31 5 6 4 22	20 6 2 8 18 24	41
Notts Cnty	30 7 2 6 26	25 4 4 7 18 26	39
Crawley	32 7 3 6 17	18 4 2 10 20 35	38
Morecambe	32 5 2 9 25	30 5 4 7 18 29	36
Barnet	30 8 3 4 23	15 2 3 10 26 31	36
Stevenage	33 5 5 6 19	24 3 5 9 23 31	34
Newport Co	30 2 6 6 17	23 5 4 7 17 31	31
Hartlepool	29 5 2 9 18	25 3 1 9 11 24	27
York	31 5 3 7 21	26 1 5 10 13 30	26
Yeovil	31 3 6 6 19	23 2 4 10 13 24	25
Dagenham	31 0 4 11 10	28 4 4 8 22 29	20

Ladbrokes Scottish Prem

Celtic	3	Inverness CT	0
Mackay-Steven 54			
Griffiths 59,90			
HT 0-0			
Dundee Utd	2	Hearts	1
Dermel 43			
Paton 88			
HT 1-0			
Kilmarnock	0	Dundee	0
HT 0-0			
Ross Cnty	2	Hamilton	1
Schalk 45			
McShane 78			
HT 1-0			
St Johnstn	2	Motherwell	1
Wotherspoon 43			
Scobbie 90			
HT 1-1			

	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	P W D L F A	Pt
Celtic	26 11 2 1 41	8 8 2 2 28 13	61
Aberdeen	26 9 3 1 20	11 8 1 4 25 18	55
Hearts	25 7 3 1 27	12 5 5 4 19 14	44
Ross Cnty	27 8 0 6 27	23 3 3 7 15 20	36
St Johnstn	25 5 5 3 19	17 5 0 7 22 24	35
Dundee	26 5 4 3 21	16 3 6 5 18 25	34
Inverness CT	25 5 4 4 15	13 3 4 5 18 23	32
Motherwell	27 4 3 6 17	20 4 2 8 13 23	29
Hamilton	27 3 5 5 17	18 4 3 7 14 29	29
Partick	23 4 2 5 12	17 3 5 5 4 10 11	28
Kilmarnock	27 3 4 7 14	28 4 3 6 15 20	28
Dundee Utd	26 3 2 9 16	24 1 3 8 10 26	17

Ladbrokes Scottish Ch'ship

Morton	0	Falkirk	1
HT 0-1			
Raith	2	Livingston	0
Stewart 37, Connolly 48			
HT 1-0			
St Mirren	1	Dumbarton	1
Shankland 63			
HT 0-0			

	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	P W D L F A	Pt
Rangers	24 11 1 0 36	8 8 2 2 30 9	60
Hibernian	23 9 2 0 21	7 7 2 3 17 10	52
Falkirk	25 8 3 1 20	6 6 5 2 21 14	50
Raith	23 6 2 4 15	8 3 3 5 11 20	32
Queen Sth	22 5 3 4 14	20 4 1 5 8 31	31
Morton	24 4 3 6 8	14 3 4 4 15 15	28
St Mirren	24 3 3 6 14	20 4 3 5 10 13	27
Dumbarton	24 4 1 6 11	24 2 3 9 8 19	22
Livingston	25 1 4 7 9	15 3 1 9 15 23	17
Alloa	24 0 3 9 6	27 3 1 8 7 24	13

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 1

Airdrieonians	1	Stranraer	1
Watt 68			
HT 0-0			
Albion R.	P	Stenhsuir	P
Postponed - due to snow.			
Ayr Utd	L	Forfar	L
HT L-L			
Brechin	1	Dunfrmlne	2
Thomson 18			
HT 1-2			
Cowdenbth	2	Peterhead	3
McDaid 28			
Beaumont 51			
HT 1-2			

	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	P W D L F A	Pt
Dunfrmlne	25 8 2 2 27	10 9 3 1 33 8	56
Peterhead	26 7 5 1 34	14 6 4 3 27 17	48
Ayr Utd	23 7 2 2 26	12 5 2 5 17 20	40
Airdrieonians	25 4 2 6 13	15 6 2 2 5 21 23	34
Albion R	23 5 2 4 16	14 4 3 5 8 17	32
Stranraer	26 3 2 8 8	23 6 4 3 19 15	32
Stenhsuir	24 6 3 5 19	27 4 2 5 14 22	32
Cowdenbth	24 5 3 4 21	16 2 1 9 13 36	25
Forfar	22 2 2 8 16	22 2 5 3 13 16	19
Brechin	24 2 4 6 15	22 2 2 8 10 23	18

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 2

Arbroath	0	Queen Park	1
HT 0-1			
Clyde	2	Berwick	1
McNeil 33 pen			
Gemmell 34			
HT 2-0			
East Fife	1	Stirling A	0
Smith 72			
E Stirling	0	Annan Athletic	0
HT 0-0			
Montrose	3	Elgin	1
Templeman 42, Fraser 55			
Mallagary 60			
HT 1-0			

	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	P W D L F A	Pt
East Fife	26 8 2 4 21	13 5 3 4 22 18	44
Elgin	25 9 2 0 23	6 4 2 8 20 28	43
Queen Park	24 4 3 5 12	12 7 2 3 18 9	38
Annan Ath	24 6 4 2 27	20 5 1 6 16 17	38
Stirling A	24 6 2 4 20	12 4 3 5 14 15	35
Clyde	22 6 1 4 19	14 4 2 5 13 12	33
Montrose	26 8 2 4 27	24 1 3 8 12 29	32
Arbroath	24 4 2 6 15	17 5 2 5 18 15	31
Berwick	24 4 3 4 16	21 3 1 9 14 25	25
E Stirling	23 6 0 6 17	23 1 2 8 15 29	23

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